

Hummer  
bought by  
Tengzhong

Page 6



Street art's  
early history

Pages 12-13



Lens grants  
blind new eyes

Page 10

## 28 years of change



CFP Photo

**“W**atch us and watch what we do,” US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said during his visit to China this week. “The US will spawn a strong recovery, control its rising budget deficit and thereby protect the value of dollar-denominated assets of its investors.” Geithner’s three-day official visit, which began May 31, was regarded as the US’s fiscal sustainability tour. Many Chinese experts think one of his major goals was to persuade China to buy more US debt to help the country out of the financial crisis. At Peking University to give a speech on Monday, Geithner was presented with a photograph by his former Chinese teacher Fu Min. The photo, taken 28 years ago, shows Geithner, then a student at an eight-week Chinese learning program organized by Peking University, and Fu herself.

Page 5

Parents of  
premie sued  
by hospital

Page 7

Local Iranians  
prepare for  
new election

Page 9

iFair markets,  
preserves  
organic crafts

Page 15

Ride China’s  
most historic  
railway

Pages 20-21

**BEIJING'S "1ST" MAGIC & COMEDY CLUB!**  
INTERNATIONAL ACTS! "MONDAY THRU SATURDAY"  
SHOW & OPEN BAR 8PM ¥ 200  
DISCOUNT SHOWS!  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY  
ONLY ¥ 100

PERFORMERS LODGED BY  
**Home Abroad**  
Homes for Expats by Expats

PRESENTED BY  
**Continental Airlines**  
CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1  
UPSTAIRS FROM SPORTS PUB!  
TICKETS 59283045/46/47



# Nanjing man first to collect on food Safety Law

By Jin Zhu

The first case of someone demanding financial compensation equivalent to 10 times the value of the product happened Monday in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, the first day the new Food Safety Law was in effect.

A resident surnamed Wu spent 11.20 yuan for two bags of *zongzi*, a traditional pyramid-shaped dumpling, at a supermarket on May 29 and found the food had gone bad when he opened the packages the same day.

Since his mother already ate it, Wu asked the supermarket to guarantee it will be held responsible for compensation if his mother develops a food-borne illness during the next 15 days.

However, the supermarket refused to provide such a guarantee until Wu appealed to the local consumers' association.

After mediation, the supermarket offered an initial compensation 10 times of the value of the product (112 yuan), as stipulated by the Food Safety Law, and agreed to bear all expenses related to the case.

The new Food Safety Law was the result of a three-year drafting process and was approved by the National People's Congress on February 28.

Besides granting consumers the right to claim compensation up to 10 times the price of a product, the law also establishes a monitoring and supervision system.

The law forbids the use of additives, such as the industrial chemical melamine, unless they can be proven both necessary and safe.

The law also set up a product-recall system, and no products are shipped without inspection.

Starting from December 21, to lighten the enterprises' financial load, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine has approved that are eligible for inspection-free certifications limited to three years.

However, several inspection-free products have been exposed to contain serious flaws. According to the new Food Safety Law,

food products are not eligible for inspection-free certification. Penalties run as high as 200,000 yuan for products sold using the inspection-free mark.

"Considering the rather expensive fees involved in annual inspection, food products may be regraded in the future," Sang Liwei, an expert on the Food Safety Law, said.

Companies and individuals who break the law can be held liable for medical and other compensation, and may be called to face criminals charges.

The State Council will set up a special committee to coordinate and instruct the different ministries on their responsibilities, according to the law.

## City to hold think tank summit on financial crisis

By Han Manman

Experts from 100 leading international think tanks and organizations are expected to discuss the global economic downturn and how to revive the world economy at a meeting early next month, the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) said Tuesday.

Wei Jianguo, secretary-general of the non-governmental research and consulting organization, said Tuesday at a press conference in Beijing that 200 representatives from major Chinese and foreign firms would participate in the event, which CCIEE is calling the "Global Think Tank Summit."

"In face of the global financial crisis, full cooperation is needed not only between governments, but also between think tanks," Wei, a former deputy minister of commerce, said.

Wei said the timing was deliberately chosen as early July since it offered a chance to summarize the first half of 2009 and plan the second half.

The CCIEE said it has high hopes for the summit. Wei said the summit will offer concrete results, like proposals on how to fight protectionism and how to enhance cooperation between think tanks. After the summit, some actions to implement proposals will be carried out.

Policy-makers around the world are struggling to cope with the ongoing financial crisis.

CCIEE was established in Beijing late this March. Zeng Peiyan, former deputy prime minister of the State Council, was appointed to be its chairman.

"This is a big leap in building a semi-official, semi-non-official think tank in China," said former vice-president of the China Development Bank Liu Kegou, now a CCIEE researcher.

Since its establishment on March 20, CCIEE has listed 19 key research projects for this year, including the possibility of a second financial shock wave and building a new international financial order.

Wei said the summit is scheduled for July 3 to 4. Experts who attend will discuss governments' policies in response to the financial crisis, ideas for a new international financial order and the impact of the crisis on globalization and regional integration.

## '120' gets baby-only ambulance



By Chen Zao

The city's first "baby-only ambulance" entered official operation on International Children's Day. The ambulance, operated by Beijing First Aid Center, is equipped to provide emergency medical services for children younger than 3 years old.

The ambulance carries ventilators, incubators, monitors and other first-aid equipment made specifically to treat newborn children in critical condition.

It is currently on 24-hour stand by at the first-aid-center. The center plans to add more baby-only ambulances to its fleet if this one receives frequent calls.

## College entrance exam sees new drop in attendance

By Han Manman

The National College Entrance Exam saw a drop in candidates for the first time in seven years, the Ministry of Education announced Tuesday.

However, it denied the drop was caused by pressure from the current job market.

About 10.2 million people registered to attend the exam, held Sunday through Tuesday, down 3.8 percent from last year, the ministry said.

Candidates for the exam rose every year from 2002 to 2008, growing from 5.27 million in 2002 to 10.5 million in 2008.

About half of the country's provinces and regions already reported a decrease in candidates. In Shan-

dong Province, an economic powerhouse, education officials said they received 100,000 fewer applicants this year than in 2008 — a drop of more than 10 percent.

Some media reports said employment pressure and a slowdown in the domestic economy caused the drop.

"I don't agree with this view," Jiang Gang, deputy director of the ministry's college students office, said.

"The drop in candidate number is mainly due to the drop in senior high school graduates," he said.

Jiang did admit that the financial crisis added great pressure to the country's job market.

Figures from the National

Bureau of Statistics showed the number of high school graduates contracted from 8.49 million last year to 8.34 million this year. There will be 8.03 million graduates next year, according to estimates.

The exam, also called the "gao kao," has been a "make-or-break" benchmark for millions of young people since 1977.

But the exam has been criticized in recent years for relying solely on written tests with no evaluation of a student's overall ability.

The exam has long been considered a life-changing opportunity for high school students seeking a better education and, in turn, a better job. But for some high school students, the economic crisis has brought an end to the "employ-



College entrance exam is a life-changing experience for many.

CFP Photo

ment myth": that a college degree is the ticket to a good job.

Many have abandoned higher education for more practical vocational training, where they can learn a special skill.

The country has 6.11 million college students due to graduate this year, and 1 million from last year are still seeking work, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said.



# 9 vets return home from Myanmar after 68 years



Veterans disembark on Chinese soil.

CFP Photo

By Venus Lee

The new television drama *My Chief and My Regiment* renewed public interest in the Chinese National Revolutionary Army Expeditionary Force in Myanmar of 68 years ago. With the help of the media, nine veterans who have been stranded there since the conflict have returned.

Li Feng, 87, was born in Bingcun, Meixian County, Guangdong Province. He joined the Expeditionary Army when he was 20 and participated in several campaigns in Myanmar during World War II.

After the victory, he married a local woman, converted to Christianity and remained in Myanmar. "Although I lived in a foreign land, my heart has always been in China," he said.

Among the nine returning veterans, two had no idea whether they would find their surviving family members. Zhang Haodong, 89, was one such soldier.

Despite having almost no leads, Zhang insisted on returning to search for his family. With the help of local residents, he found his younger brother in Henan Province. He was excited to see his younger brother "Aizhong," and mentioned him frequently at an interview given in Mangshi Airport, Yunnan Province.

Zhang joined the army at age 14 and worked in provision transportation during the war. He chose to live in Myanmar after the war when his health was failing. "If I didn't come home now, there would probably not be another

chance," he said.

The Expeditionary Army was an overseas detachment deployed by China to aid British soldiers fighting in Myanmar during World War II. As many as 100,000 soldiers were sent to resist the Japanese army. About 61,000 died on battlefields. Most of the remaining soldiers died in Myanmar during the years since, and only a few dozen are still alive.

Many of the remaining veterans could not reunite with their families because they were too old or too ill to make the journey, the reunion's organizer Sun Chunlong said.

"I meant to help a dozen veterans return to China, but some of them bitterly abandoned the opportunity because of their failing health," he said.

## Inmate battles the system to save brother

By Han Manman

The Ministry of Justice is conducting an urgent review of one prisoner's appeal to donate a kidney to save his brother.

The Hubei Province Bureau of Prison Administration helped submit the appeal Tuesday when the story first broke.

Ma Qizheng, from Henan Province, has been incarcerated since 2006 on a six-year sentence for robbery.

In July 2007, his younger brother Ma Qichang, 32, was diagnosed with uremia, a disease which causes kidney failure. Doctors said a kidney transplant would be needed for him to survive.

A test last October confirmed Ma Qizheng was a perfect match for the transplant. The brothers' parents are too old.

But Ma's hopes were shattered when he received a call from Cangzhou Prison last month informing him that inmates were forbidden to donate organs.

Ma Qizheng filed several requests with prison officers for transplant approval: all were rejected.

Zeng Xianbing, a spokesman for Hubei prisons, told the *Beijing News* that the Ministry of Justice had "introduced special regulations on prisoner organ donations in 2006."

"Until the government clarifies the wording of this regulation, we cannot allow prisoners to donate their organs," Zeng said.

"We are sad to hear about his brother's illness, but we cannot

just break the rules," he said, adding that they informed the ministry of the situation and are waiting for a response.

Zeng said an incarcerated donor would require further medical attention after the transplant procedure, and it was unclear who would cover the cost. The law was also unclear who would be at fault if the transplant failed.

These concerns are why the ministry has forbidden prisoner organ transplants, he said.

No one from the Ministry of Justice or the Hubei prison administration were available for comment yesterday.

However, this week, a girl with leukemia in Wuhan, Hubei Province, was approved to receive bone marrow from her imprisoned brother.

Similar cases had totally different results. This leaves one question unanswered: why do national regulations changed from prison to prison?

The actual wording of the regulations only discourages transplants: it does not forbid them, Professor Qiao Xinsong, from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, said.

Prior to the new regulations, a prisoner in Hebei Province donated a kidney to his daughter who had uremia.

The Hebei Prison Administrative Bureau approved the donation by Li Fusheng, who was serving a sentence in Cangzhou for fraud, to his daughter Chang Junhuan, 23, in 2006.

## Dog-sitting market set to boom

By Chen Zao

With the growing number of Beijing residents keeping dogs, there are a number of new positions opening up for nannies who are "not afraid of dogs" or who are "willing to walk dogs." According to Beijing Ainong Household Management, a professional dog sitter can earn as much as 2,000 yuan per month.

Dog sitters are sought after by many families, especially those who keep bigger dogs. Ainong residents surnamed Zhang and Wang said their husky was scared away many nannies, so they had to pay 2,000 yuan per month to hire a professional dog sitter to walk their dog. The responsibilities of a full-time dog sitter range from cooking food to bathing and walking dogs.

A pet industry analysts surnamed Liu said that, based on the



Professional dog sitters cost at least 2,000 yuan a month.

CFP Photo

popularity of dogs as pets, dog sitters may become desirable as the next symbol of status. Many young people who grew up in the city have no idea how to raise a

pet, or are too busy at work to properly care for a dog.

Beijing Ainong Household Management said it always asks clients to hire professional dog sitters to care for their animals. Their clients mainly needed dog sitters to keep their animals occupied, so the job was not a stressful one. Dog sitters were not expected to handle housework other than caring for the animal.

Zheng Chunhua, the dog trainer at Beijing Cool Baby Pet Theme Park, said there have been claims filed against some dog sitters who lost their charge or allowed it to be involved in a traffic accident. "These possible problems should be resolved in advance, such as what kind of leash the owner wants, how to clean up the animal's waste, how to deal with fights and how to stop the animal from eating garbage," Zheng said.





CHINA OPEN  
中国网球公开赛

Sony Ericsson  
WTA TOUR



# 星耀中网 为你绽放

**Booking Hotline**  
**400-707-9999**

National Tennis Center 2009.10.2-11

Official Ticketing Service   
**www.ticketmaster.cn**

Official Website Service   
**www.chinaopen.com.cn**

Official Host Broadcaster 

中网官方指定平面设计：北京理想设计艺术公司





# Watch us move

## Geithner's China trip committed to cooperation

By Huang Daohen

"Watch us and watch what we do," US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said during his visit to Beijing this week. "The US will spawn a strong recovery, control the rising budget deficit and thereby protect the value of dollar-denominated assets of investors."

Geithner's three-day official visit, which began May 31, was regarded as the US' "fiscal sustainability tour." Many Chinese experts think one of his major goals was to persuade the government to continue buying US debt to help the country out of the financial crisis.

*Geithner's visit was seen by many as mainly a trip to persuade China to buy more US treasury bonds.*

### Geithner's China visit

## Assuage the Chinese about US debt

Geithner on Monday gave a speech at Peking University, titled "The US and China, Cooperating for Recovery and Growth."

"As we recover from this unprecedented crisis, we will cut our fiscal deficit, we will eliminate the extraordinary governmental support that we have put in place to overcome the crisis," he said of the US' huge financial deficit, to which the Chinese public are paying great attention.

China is the country's largest creditor and owns US \$768 billion (5.2 trillion yuan) of Treasury securities, about 10 percent of the States' publicly held debt.

Geithner said the China does not need to worry about



Geithner was given a special gift while giving speech Monday at Peking University. CFP Photo

America's financial deficit. "The President, in his initial budget to Congress, made it clear that as soon as recovery is firmly established we are going to have to bring our

fiscal deficit down to a level that is sustainable over the medium term," he said.

The secretary also promised to support China to exert a bigger influence on

the reform of the international financial system. "The US will fully support having China play a role in the principal cooperative arrangements that help shape the international system, a role that is commensurate with China's importance in the global economy."

Geithner studied Chinese at Peking University in 1981, then transferred to Beijing Normal University in 1982. He and his mainland classmates visited many places in China's east coast and learned about Chinese culture.

On this trip, Geithner spoke a brief sentence in Chinese, an idiom that translates to "We will make a joint effort in a concerted way."

### Spotlight: Buying US bonds

#### US bonds risky

The use of the country's huge foreign exchange reserves is a topic of concern and controversy.

On the first day of US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's visit to Beijing, a survey of 23 well-known Chinese economists showed that the majority of them deemed China's vast holdings of US bonds "risky."

Among the 23 experts polled, 17 said they believed US equities pose great risks to the nation's economy.

Li Wei, an expert with the Institute of the Ministry of Commerce, and Tian Yun, a scholar at the China Macroeconomics Institute, expressed concerns over the risks, saying the US may export its deepening crisis to the country "by printing US dollar notes uncontrollably."

But five other economists, including Yi Xianrong, a researcher at the financial research center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), said they do not believe US equities pose "great risks" to the domestic economy.

They said compared with other investments, investment in US notes is less risky since the US is still an engine of the world economy.

However, 15 of the experts said they were against the idea of quickly offloading China's possession of US debt as a means to strengthen the country's financial stability.

#### Gold or US dollar

Gold has become the sole standard investment instrument to maintain an upward trend. While there is a steep increase in its price, should China put its huge foreign exchange reserves in gold, no longer US dollars?

According to a recent survey by *China Business News*, major Chinese economists are bearish on the prospect of the country increasing its holdings of US government bonds, and believe the nation should put more of its hard-earned money into gold.

In the poll of 70 economists, including one foreign economist, 71.4 percent were pro-gold.

#### Give forex reserves to public

Half of the country's foreign currency reserves should be given away to the public to stimulate the local economy, Zhang Weiying, a leading economist, said.

"It would be good for ordinary people to become holders of American securities," said Zhang, a professor at Peking University.

"If ordinary people become holders of US treasuries and were allowed to trade them on the market, the reserves would be better managed than if they remained hoarded in government coffers," he added.

Besides, Zhang said the government should also give away 40 percent of the shares of state-owned companies to the public.

## Backing efforts from China

Geithner appeared to have won some backing from China, with top leaders saying the two countries have set a good example in working together toward a quick recovery of the global economy.

The two governments announced Tuesday they

would launch new high-level talks July 27.

"I think partly because of the strength of the actions put in place by your government and by President (Barack) Obama we're starting to see some early signs of stabilization and recovery in the global

economy," Geithner told President Hu Jintao Tuesday.

Premier Wen Jiabao was quoted in a statement released by the Foreign Ministry as saying that "the foremost task for both countries is to work more closely to address the global economic

crisis, oppose protectionism in trade and investment, promote reform in the international financial system and tighten oversight of international reserve currency to ensure the stability and growth of China, the US and the world."

### Expert view

## Geithner, frank and straight forward

Geithner confirmed in interviews this week that he would not follow the "complaint diplomacy" route of former US treasury secretaries. He reiterated that the US will wholeheartedly promote all-round US-China relations.

However, Zhou Shijian, a senior researcher at the Center for China-US Relations of Tsinghua University, said Geithner's commitment won't fully ease the Chinese

public's concerns.

Zhou said he believes the main purpose of Geithner's trip was to persuade China to buy more US treasury bonds to ease the US' lack of capital. "China's future purchases of US bonds remains the top priority of Geithner's China visit," he said.

Comparing Geithner with his predecessor Henry Paulson, Zhou likened Paulson to an "old fox" and Geithner to a "young mule." Geithner

is more frank and straight-talking, whereas Paulson is sophisticated, he said.

Another interesting development was the unexpected change in tone among US officials who frequently visit China, Zhou said. US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was in the capital a few days before Geithner arrived. Pelosi used to slam China on its human rights record, but on her last trip, a change of tone was apparent. She

focused her attention on energy and climate change issues.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during her visit earlier this year, also refrained from criticizing China. Instead, she expressed gratitude to the country for purchasing US treasury bonds.

Zhou said the words and actions of these senior US officials demonstrated friendliness toward China.



# Policies loosened to stimulate housing market

By Huang Daohen

The State Council, the country's cabinet, announced this week a new policy to lower property developers' capital threshold to help the country's property industry rebound.

The new policy, a first in 13 years, adjusted the ratio of capital in fixed assets investment projects. The country started to enforce the capital ratio in 1996; it increased from 20 percent to 35 percent or more in 2004.

Under the new rule, the minimum capital ratio for new social security housing and general commodity housing projects has been lowered back to 20 percent, while other real estate development projects were lowered to 30 percent.

This is a timely move to help local govern-

ments and real estate businesses that are being strained financially, said Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

Capital is non-debt funds, as opposed to debt funds like bank credit. When granting loans, banks need the project's investor to provide capital. "The impact of the proportion of capital on investment is similar to the rate of statutory reserve deposits on credit expansions," Zhao said.

According to statistics, reducing the overall project capital ratio by 1 percent can result in the investment of 170 billion yuan, which can then be used for the creation of local projects, as well as 220 billion yuan for national use.

The reduction of the capital ratio has been

deemed another kind of stimulus package, which is expected to fight economic slowdown and revive the housing market, Zhao said.

However, Zhao said the immediate impact of the capital ratio cut is not clear. Since 2008, despite rapid credit growth, banks have remained wary about extending credit to the real estate industry. The fund shortage situation in real estate has not fundamentally improved, he said.

This year, the country's real estate market sales have rebounded. During the first four months, sales of commercial houses amounted to almost 799.6 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 35.4 percent.

The housing sales price index in 70 large and medium-sized cities also rebounded.

## Microsoft's new search engine banned on launch

By Venus Lee

Only one day after its launch, Microsoft's new search engine Bing was blocked by the Golden Shield Project Tuesday for allowing search results to return "inappropriate content." Its deployment in China was met with little response, either positive or negative. Critics said Bing already lost its first battle in China.

Netizens found the new engine has a hole which allows it to play streaming porn videos and display pictures of "inappropriate content" without any kind of identity verification. It was assumed by users that Bing was blocked for failing to comply with Chinese laws and regulations which require keeping the Internet free of "unhealthy content."

It is still unknown when the block will be removed, although Liu Zhenyu, deputy president of MSN China, said Microsoft will strictly observe China's policies and laws and will supervise and filter inappropriate content.

Chen Gui, senior editor of pcOnline, said Bing's search categories were weaker than what is seen in competing engines like Google and Baidu. "Compared with concise home pages of other main search engines, Bing has a more colorful background, but it only has five categories: We pages, pictures, videos, information and maps. It lacks the translator function seen in Google and Baidu," he said.

Bing has no striking features compared to its competitors. "It is not as satisfying as I imagined in its present stage. If Bing wants to attract dedicated fans of Google and Baidu, it has to do something outstanding and different," said Xie Wen, the CEO of Yiqi.com.

According to an online survey by Sina.com, 47.2 percent of netizens did not think Bing could challenge Google, and 41.4 percent said they did not like the new search engine's name.

Although the Chinese name of Bing, "Biying," is derived from the idiom "youqiu biying," translated as "all requests are answered," many netizens thought it was an unlucky name since "Bing" is a homonym with the Chinese word for illness.

However, Feng Guangshun, spokesman for MSN China, said the company had received positive feedback about Bing's slideshow features and video search.

Hong Bo, a senior analyst, said Bing will have little impact on its competitors like Google and Baidu in China. "Bing is a far cry from an excellent multipurpose search engine. The software giant still has a long way to go if it wants to increase its share in the search market," he said.

## Metro China starts plan to train local farmers

METRO Cash & Carry, the self-service wholesaler, announced Monday a plan to enlarge Star Farm, a project to teach local farmers about safe production and processing.

This move comes as the new food safety law takes effect.

"Through the Star Farm project, we are exploring an innovative way to secure food quality by sourcing products directly from trained and qualified farmers. We can control the whole supply chain this way," Tino Zeiske, president of METRO China, said.

(By Huang Daohen)

## GM to sell Hummer to Chinese firm



The sale of Hummer to China shocks the industry, and many analysts doubt the Chinese firm can integrate the brand.

CFP Photo

General Motors, seeking to shed assets to emerge from bankruptcy, agreed to sell the Hummer sport-utility vehicle brand to Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery.

Tengzhong will assume Hummer's dealer agreements and a senior management team, the companies said in a joint statement Tuesday.

day. GM and Tengzhong also plan to form a long-term contract for assembly and supply agreement. Hummer is worth an estimated US \$500 million (304 billion yuan), GM said in bankruptcy court documents.

Tengzhong will keep Hummer's core management and operations team and existing

dealership network, according to the agreement. It will also clinch a long-term agreement to become a GM supplier. Tengzhong, based in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, manufactures heavy-industry vehicles, highway and bridge components, construction machinery and energy equipment. (Agencies)

### Analyst Doubts over Hummer sale

By Huang Daohen

Why does a Chinese company with no experience in the auto market want to buy a luxury car brand? The question puzzled many analysts, including Wen Yiwen, industrial analyst with Oriental Securities.

If past cases are any indication, Tengzhong faces significant challenges in successfully absorbing a Western brand like Hummer. The state-owned Shanghai SAIC

Motor's control of South Korea SUV maker Ssangyong Motor, which filed for bankruptcy in February, was a costly defeat.

"It will be difficult for a Chinese company to develop this well," Wen said, adding that cultural barriers and differences in management will be major obstacles.

It remains unclear how research and development and technology transfer will work, Wen said, but according to the deal, GM wants

to keep manufacture in the US and this would inhibit Tengzhong from reducing the costs by switching to cheaper Chinese labor.

China's affluent class is growing rapidly, and the country may be the first major economy to emerge from the global slump.

"If the cars are built in the US and sold to China, that will be good for American employees, but the Hummer will be a difficult sale here, Wen said.

### Related GM bankruptcy to have no impact in China

By Jin Zhu

General Motors filed for bankruptcy protection Monday. It is the largest largest industrial bankruptcy in US history.

However, the bankruptcy will almost have no impact on GM operations in China, GM China Group said Monday.

According to GM China Group, domestic sales by GM China and its joint ventures in the first five months in 2009 grew 33.8 percent over the same period last year. The sales reached 156,363 units in May, an increase of 75.2 percent over the same period of last year and the best month in the company's history.

"China has been the largest vehicle

market in the world the past five months. We have great confidence in China. Our business strategy and plans in the country for continued growth will remain unchanged," Kevin Wale, president and managing director of GM China Group, said.

GM has eight joint ventures and about 25,000 employees in China. It sold 1.09 million units last year, making it a leader in the domestic industry.

"Customers will continue to receive excellent service and warranty coverage. And there will be no change in payments to employees, dealers or suppliers contracted to GM China or to the joint ventures," Wale said.

According to China's rules for automobile joint ventures, GM's shares in its two major manufacturing facilities in China - Shanghai GM and SAIC-GM Wuling - are only 50 percent and 34 percent separately.

"Although GM's bankruptcy will shake the US and European automobile markets, it will almost certainly not impact its business in China," Zhong Shi, an auto analyst, said.

Within 60 to 90 days, General Motors will be restructured under the supervision of the US government. As many as 21,000 of a current 54,000 direct GM employees in the US will be sacked, and most quality assets will be sold to the new GM during bankruptcy.



# Hospital sues parents for defaulting on fees for premature baby



The Beijing Hospital on Tuesday sued a married couple for defaulting on expenses to save their baby.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

By Wang Yu

The Dongcheng District People's Court on Tuesday heard a case in which Beijing Hospital sued a married couple for defaulting on hospitalization expenses worth 48,000 yuan. Last December 30, Peng Xiaojuan (pseudonym) gave birth at the hospital to a premature baby girl – whom Peng and her husband surnamed Fang never intended to keep.

The infant named Liangliang was two weeks premature. Unsure of her development and Peng's fragile health, the couple decided to give up the child, but the hospital said the baby needed to be delivered. Peng and Fang signed off on a caesarian section but noted they

were "giving up further treatment" for their daughter.

"We already gave up further treatment for the baby; yet the hospital still saved it. No one asked them to do so!" said Peng, who had previously been treated for uterine contractions in the same hospital. "We actually didn't want to have the baby," she said.

Liangliang was only 800 grams at birth – far less than the normal weight of 3.5 kilograms. The infant grew very slowly over the next five months, and could not see anything until it was almost touching her eyelashes. But Peng's greatest fear is that her daughter is mentally retarded as the back of her head is abnormally big.

Peng and her mother-in-

law are sickly, so Liangliang's entry to the family has been more a burden than a blessing.

A Beijing Hospital representative admitted that the couple gave up further treatment for the baby, but said the hospital decided to save the infant because of medical ethics. Peng's hospital expenses reached 48,000 yuan, which the couple couldn't afford, so they refused to pay.

"It's not that we don't want to pay it, but we can't afford it," Fang said.

He eventually asked the hospital to reduce the fees to 33,000 yuan. The hospital agreed but required the money be given as a lump sum. The People's Court judge approved the agreement and the case is closed.

## Comment

### Mother has a right to give up

A mother has a right to choose whether or not to deliver her baby if the child may have a disability. But the precondition is that the mother must get enough information about the baby's health from her hospital. Parents usually don't have enough medical knowledge to make a decision independent of a doctor's advice. A hospital's wrong judgment may lead the parents to raising a disabled child.

– Wang Zongyu, professor at the People's University of China

### Responsibility to save a life

Once a child is born, the law bestows on it "personalization." According to the law, a doctor goes against the law if he refuses to save a patient. So it's understandable

why the hospital still gave further treatment to the baby.

– Charles Zhao, lawyer

### If the medical care system can only help more

Similar cases have happened in our hospital; some poor parents have even abandoned their children in the delivery room. It is a dilemma: On the one hand, a doctor doesn't want to get himself in trouble if the parents give up the baby; on the other hand, ethics require him to save a life. A premature infant may indeed have a congenital disease or disability which will make him a burden to a poor family. Unfortunately, the medical system we have gives little help to these people.

– Chen Tongyun, surgeon

## Debate of the week

### Public servants asked to improve English skills

By Venus Lee

The Guangzhou municipality's compulsory English-language training program for its employees is the latest government policy to trigger controversy.

According to the directive, civil servants of all ages are required to undergo basic psychology lessons; those under 50 need to take computer training; and those under 35 have to

strengthen their English reading, writing and speaking skills, and will be evaluated through a test.

The city has seen an increased demand for English speakers in the lead-up to the 16th Asian Games it will host in 2010. The municipal government believes English-language training for its workers will not only contribute to the Games' success, but it will also bring Guangzhou

closer to its dream of being a cosmopolitan city.

"Ordinary citizens have joined the latest wave of students who study English in order to embrace the Asian Games. This includes 60,000 bus and taxi drivers who are trained in batches and stages, so civil servants should even be more duty-bound to improve their English proficiency," said Ye Xiquan, vice secretary-general of

the Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (GAGOC).

But some civil servants do not buy the argument. "Although public servants should master a foreign language, a large-scale program will make people feel harassed and drain government coffers because of its high cost but low efficiency," Han Zhipeng, a government employee said. "This kind of sweeping approach

is not sensible. The government should implement it depending on one's job description. Civil servants in the foreign affairs section should be the program's primary target."

Meanwhile, some netizens think English-language training is not the right priority for government workers: is more urgent raising their overall quality and decision-making skills.

### Smoking banned on TV

By Chen Zao

The China Consumers' Association (CCA) proposed on May 31 that smoking and excessive displays of cigarettes on television be prohibited.

CCA said that aside from tobacco advertisements, images of smoking and cigarettes on TV tempt minors to pick up the habit.

Cheng Lidong, producer of the TV program Lei Feng, about a model soldier and communist in the 1960s, supported the initiative. "Smoking is harmful to health. Our job involves enriching and enlightening people's lives, so we should act in ways that lead viewers to good health."

Zhang Ali, a television

director and head of North-western University in Shangxi Province, agreed that TV shots of people smoking should be limited, but that it would be impossible to totally remove them. "Films and television programs are based on real life, and many people smoke. For instance, police officers

who smoke all night while working on a case is an image from real life," Zhang said.

A high school teacher surnamed Zhou agrees with CCA's proposal, saying that if violence and smoking on TV is reduced, along with cigarette ads, students will find it easier to ignore temptation.

The film and television industry should change the prevailing message from "smoking is cool and is a sign of maturity" to "smoking is harmful to your health," and promote anti-smoking campaigns to minors through vivid images that will dampen their desire to smoke, Zhou said.



# Lady mayoress' charity work extends to China's orphans

By Jin Zhu

The Lady Mayoress of the City of London, Lin Luder, on Monday visited Care for Children (CFC) to celebrate Children's Day with orphans and abandoned children, and to support the center's foster care project in the country.

"I've always been passionate about charity work, no matter whether in London or any other place in the world. I heard of CFC's foster care project in China from the lady mayoress before me, and I was intrigued by the meaningful projects that former lady mayoresses had been involved with," said Luder, wife of the Sheriff of the City of London Ian Luder.

CFC, a registered charity in China, the US and the UK, is working with the government to



Lin Luder (right) celebrates Children's Day with orphans.

Photo by Jin Zhu

remove from institutions more orphaned and abandoned chil-

dren and transfer them to good foster homes.

"The center is fantastic. I've visited many similar places in London, but this center stands out for its atmosphere, organization and its staff's enthusiasm," Luder said.

"I imagined only a big and noisy room filled with many children who would not stop crying. But the center is very well-organized, with classrooms, a music room, a gym and a dining area, and so many workers and volunteers with a strong sense of responsibility, all of which were contrary to my expectations," said Luder, who was accompanied on her visit by representatives of the China Social Work Association and local CFC supporters.

The lady mayoress believes in foster care's positive contributions to society. "Foster care

not only fulfills a child's basic needs to live, but also helps him or her to develop into a healthy and responsible member of society. Besides that, the program benefits foster families with a more enriched emotional life," she said.

"When I heard that all the instruments in the music room, such as the piano, trumpet and drums, were donated, I was totally moved by the concern given by the charity's supporters," Luder said, adding that she will lend CFC a hand by raising funds and calling for more volunteers.

"I hope I can pay a second visit," she said. "And there is no doubt that our support work will continue since the tradition of charity work among lady mayoresses will be passed to my successor next year."

## French nature photographer's first film premieres worldwide

By Han Manman

The French Culture Center will participate in the simultaneous global premiere of renowned photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand's first film *Home*, which hits screens today, World Environment Day.

A tireless activist for the "green" cause, 62-year-old Arthus-Bertrand's aerial nature photographs have touched millions. GoodPlanet, his non-profit organization, has made strides in raising public awareness on how to lead a more eco-friendly life.

*Home*, shot in 54 countries and 120 locations, illustrates the beauty of the planet and the urgent need to protect it.

Arthus-Bertrand said that from the air, it's easy to see the earth's "wounds," and that is why

his debut film is made up entirely of aerial photography.

"We have placed a greater burden on the earth than it can bear. We overconsume and are depleting the earth's resources," he said. "*Home* simply lays out our current situation, while saying that a solution exists."

Besides advocating for a more nature-friendly life, the film also seeks to inspire people to help and to share, Arthus-Bertrand said. "There's a magnificent quote from (French naturalist) Theodore Monod, 'We've tried everything, except love.' I hope this movie will be synonymous with a lot of love," he said.

Born in France in 1946, Arthus-Bertrand has always been passionate about the natural

world. At the age of 30, he moved to Kenya with his wife to study the behavior of lions in the Masai Mara Reserve. It was there that the budding photographer discovered a unique way of capturing the country's stunning landscapes – by flying miles above the earth in a hot air balloon.

Years later in 2000, Arthus-Bertrand, already a professional photographer, entered the limelight with a public art exhibition titled "Earth from Above." Premiering in Paris to unprecedented success, the photo exhibit soon traveled around the world and was seen by 130 million people as of last year.

The idea behind "Earth from Above" was to inspire people to think about sustainable living



Yann Arthus-Bertrand stands in front of one of his photo exhibits.

Photo provided by France Today

through images that show the earth's fragile, stunning beauty.

Arthus-Bertrand was recently named Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Program.

*Home*, produced by renowned French director Luc Besson, will be shown in 87 countries in 14 different languages on June 5. The version to be screened by the French Culture Center.

**SUBSCRIBE**  
to **BEIJING TODAY**  
FOR **gift!**

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534, 65902626 (voice message function is on for 24 hrs)

Email: charles@ynet.com zhangnan@ynet.com

Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn



**HOW TO GET A GIFT:**

Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan. You can choose a gift of either a **crocs** T-shirt or a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.



# Malaysian PM continues father's friendship with China

By Han Manman

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak promised to travel the path of friendship with China that his father began 35 years ago.

Speaking at his conferment of an honorary doctorate degree by the Beijing Foreign Studies University, Najib described Malaysia-China ties as "very personal" to him and his family.

He said his first official visit to China as head of state would further strengthen ties built by his father, the late Abdul Razak Hussein, Malaysia's second prime minister.

"Today, we who follow from the generation of my late father and (former Chinese prime minister) Zhou Enlai enjoy the results of what they had accomplished," he said.

"Still clear in my mind is my late father saying to me that 'I can work with Zhou and I have the greatest respect for him,'" Najib said. "As my father had trusted the Chinese leaders, I have the same trust with regard



Najib Razak was honored with doctorate degree at Beijing Foreign Studies University. CFP Photo

to the current leaders."

Najib arrived in the capital Tuesday evening for a four-day visit – his first outside Southeast Asia since becoming premier –

to celebrate China and Malaysia's 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Malaysian Ambassador Syed Norulzaman Syed Kamarulza-

man said the friendship between the two nations has existed for 600 years, when their people first made contact.

"We (Malaysia and China)

started out shaking hands and we will continue shaking hands," Syed Norulzaman said.

In 1974, Malaysia went against conventions at the time by becoming the first Southeast Asian nation to establish diplomatic ties with China, the ambassador said.

"Although the past 35 years have been good, more can be done between both countries to boost the relationship," he said.

Tourism would be a good area to expand, Syed Norulzaman said, adding that around a million Malaysians visited China last year. "Air connections are on the increase for both countries and we are now connected to 12 (Chinese) cities."

Meanwhile, Malaysia has remained a top destination for Chinese students seeking education abroad, the ambassador said.

In the area of investment, Syed Norulzaman said Malaysia is looking for more Chinese investments and sees a lot of potential in its economic zones and infrastructure projects.

## Local Iranian community to participate in presidential polls

By Jin Zhu

The Iranian embassy is preparing to hold overseas absentee voting for the country's upcoming presidential election on June 12, its press officer said.

"There are about 300 to 400 Iranian nationals in Beijing. The embassy will assist them to vote on Election Day. A voting room has already been prepared, and the embassy will also provide drinks and snacks," Mohammad Rezvani said.

Embassies in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong will be open to Iranian voters as well, Rezvani said.

Ballots from the Iranian Election Committee are already in Beijing. After the polls, they will be returned to Iran for tabulation.

Four candidates have been approved by Iran's Guardians Council: incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former Revolutionary Guards Chief Mohsen Rezaei, former Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and former Speaker of Parliament Mehdi Karroubi.

"Although Ahmadinejad, the candidate of the conservatives won last time, most Iranians in Beijing voted for reformist candidates," Rezvani said.

Liang Youchang, chief reporter of Xinhua News Agency in the Iranian capital Tehran, said the candidates have made special efforts to campaign online since a huge proportion of voters are young people.

"Besides appearing on TV and putting out ads, online media have become popular among the four candidates," Liang said.

Ahmadinejad set up a blog and some of his speeches have been translated into English. Reformist candidates Mousavi and Karroubi have posted videos of their speeches online.

In Iran, election fever has swept the streets. Some citizens have plastered photos of their candidate on their car windows, while some stand on the sidewalks, handing out leaflets and videos of their presidential bet.

"Since voters come from different social strata, their concerns are wide-ranging. Some people



Supporters of Iranian reformist presidential candidate Mir Hussein Mousavi rally at Tabriz University. Mousavi is considered the strongest challenger to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. CFP Photo

focus on livelihood, while others worry about economic issues," Liang said.

But the country's nuclear program does not figure in the discussion in an apparent contrast

overseas, he said. "It's miles away from the daily life of ordinary people," Liang said.

Pass on the torch of care and defeat global hunger  
—Li Ning

China and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP)  
are working hand in hand in building a hunger-free and harmonious world



The World Food Programme (WFP) is  
the world's largest humanitarian organization.  
It is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger.





# Photography gives blind people new eyes



PhotoVoice runs photography training workshops for blind and visually impaired persons.

By He Jianwei

On its fourth year, the exhibition Affordable Art Beijing featured something extraordinary: photographs by blind and visually impaired people.

London-based photography charity PhotoVoice spearheaded the project to help blind and visually impaired people discover the power of photography as a communication tool.

From May 25 to 29, PhotoVoice ran photography training workshops in Beijing for eight blind and visually impaired Chinese persons.

Participants began their days talking about the importance of photography and the skills needed by a good photographer. Afterwards, they ventured out to take photographs. In the afternoon, PhotoVoice's two facilitators described to the participants the photos they took, then printed out the pictures in tactile diagrams, which make the two-dimensional images touch-perceptible.

"I didn't tell them the importance of photography. I



One of the art works

Photos provided by PhotoVoice

just asked them why they wanted to take photos. They told me it's a way to express what they saw through their cameras. Since visual works dominate the media, they would also like to pick up cameras," Chloe Dewe Mathews, one of the facilitators, said.

Blind and visually impaired people take photos with the aid of sound, so the trainers taught them special techniques. "If they want to

participants, heard the sound of accordions playing. He asked one of the peer educators, Zhu Yan, to help him get nearer to the music's source. Before he started shooting, Qing asked the musicians for permission to take their portraits. Then he used the sounds to guide him.

"I wanted to take photos of the wind, so I asked Zhu Yan how to capture the wind. He told me I could photograph the leaves, because when the leaves move, then people know the direction the wind is moving," Qing said.

Mathews conducted the same workshop in Mexico and the UK, and some of those trainees' works were also displayed at Affordable Art in The Village last weekend.

PhotoVoice hopes to continue its work in China so that more blind and visually impaired people will be given a new tool with which to paint the world. The charity is locally supported by One-Plus-One, an NGO created for and fully run by people with disabilities.

## German pop band ambassadors to hit the town

By He Jianwei

Nine German bands will bring their country's brand of pop music to Beijing this month.

The bands, fresh from a two-month gig in Shenyang, Jilin Province for the "Germany and China: Moving Ahead Together" project, include melodic death metal group SuidAkrA, rock and hip-hopers Panik and Darkwave band Deine Lakaien. Doro Pesch, Germany's heavy metal queen, will also join performances at Star Live on June 14 and Yugon-yishan on June 16 and 18.

The events aim to present to Beijingers a contemporary face of Germany, including its science, technology, education and entertainment.

"German pop music has an important role in the international market, especially in electronic and rock music," said Udo Hoffmann, musical director of "Germany and China: Moving Ahead Together," whose run in Shenyang ends this month.

Although most of the bands have had hundreds of performances in Europe, they weren't

sure how Chinese audiences would receive their music. "Because of the uncertainty, I'm sure the bands will have exciting performances in China," Hoffmann said.

Because of the unknown terrain, Hoffman's groups came well-armed. "We prepared different types of music for China, including heavy metal, pop rock, electronic and ballads. We wanted to present a comprehensive view of modern German music," he said.

The band's local gigs have also been a good opportunity

for collaboration with Chinese artists, which can open more doors in the future. "The accordion virtuoso Tobias Escher has recently released a new album in which he collaborated with a Chinese harmonica artist," Hoffmann said.

"Germany and China: Moving Ahead Together" was established in 2007 and will run until 2010, with bands touring a total of six Chinese provinces. Apart from Germany's music, the bands showcase their country's cultural, economic, scientific and social diversity.

## Event

### Booktalk with Monica Ching

Rojo is Monica Ching's Spanish-language graphic adaptation of one of the "four jewels" of classical Chinese literature, Cao Xueqin's *Dream of the Red Chamber*. In Ching's lavishly illustrated version, the novel's love story is brought to life – a fascinating portrait of both love and society in 18th century China. Join the author in exploring the history and themes of this classic text, in a scene set by classical music. Please note this event will take place in Spanish.

Where: The first courtyard, The Yin Yang Community, first courtyard in Hegezhuang, Shunyi District

When: June 5, 1:30 pm

Tel: 6431 2108

Cost: 30 yuan; 20 yuan for Bookworm members

### Dreams and Hopes: 2009 CNEX Documentary Film Festival

CNEX, a new documentary film foundation, presents together with the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) more than 30 documentaries from home and abroad. The event, themed Dreams and Hopes, showcases movies that invite viewers to share in the tears and laughter of people who surmount unbelievable obstacles to reach their dreams.

Where: CNEX Saloon Cafe, Jingyuan (Image Base), 1/F Building 1, 3 Guangqu Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 5-7

Tel: 8721 5576

Cost: 15 yuan

### Book swap and board games

At this monthly event, over 200 books are available for the taking from an ever-expanding selection. Everything from thrillers to non-fiction to chick lit is available. If English isn't your language, there are also French, Dutch and Portuguese books.

Come by and check out the book swap – it's a fabulous opportunity to offload anything taking up space on your shelves, grab a few new books and make some new friends.

There are only a few rules: Books are one-for-one – unless they are children's picture books or short fiction. The swap does not accept textbooks, classics or Chinese-language titles because those are all easily available.

The event will also feature several lively board games. If you've been dying to play Settlers of Catan or the Chinese version of Monopoly, then come over and meet like-minded folks.

Where: Sequoia Cafe, 44 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 6, 2-6 pm

Tel: 6501 5503

### Second-hand clothes for rural areas

If you have too many clothes in your wardrobe, if you want to clear more space at home or if you're leaving China and are looking to get rid of some clothes, then give them to charity. Send your unwanted clothes to this group and they will take care of bringing them to impoverished and remote areas in Qinghai Province.

They accept any clothing, except underwear, bras, shorts or swimsuits. They are collecting clothes from now until June 30.

E-mail: be.bertoncello@yahoo.fr or zekuevelyn2000@yahoo.com.cn

Facebook: Second hand clothes project in rural area

(By Wei Ying)



# A nostalgic visit to old toys

By Zheng Lu

During the Qing Dynasty, scholars would pass the time rolling walnuts in their hands while warriors played with iron balls. During the period of the Republic, skin-shadow puppets and silk figurines became trendy. By the 1970s and 80s, "Autobots, start!" was the commonly heard battle cry of children with wind-up robots. All these toys from 30 to hundreds of years ago were on display at the Panjiayuan second-hand market on Monday, Children's Day.

At the market's multi-purpose hall, in one corner of the Nostalgia Toys Exhibition, dozens of people watched the movie *The Transformers*. Most in the audience were adults who stared at the screen in rapt attention; the children looked like they were there merely to keep their parents company.

The exhibit showcased toys used by people of all ages. One mother explained to her 10-year-old daughter each piece they saw while walking along the display cabinets. But she was stumped when she



Dolls once popular in China

Photo by Zheng Lu

came face-to-face with an odd machine that looked like a clock. "Even I haven't seen this toy," she told her daughter.

"Children have their toys and so do elderly people," Wang Limei, a Panjiayuan official, said. She said this was the

first time playthings owned by ancient scholars were shown to the public, such as Ming and Qing-dynasty cricket jars made of clay, one of the exhibit's most precious collections.

Young adult visitors couldn't contain their excitement upon seeing wind-up toys and cartoon figures like Doraemon and the Ninja Turtles. "I had the same hen as this one!" a woman in her 20s said at the sight of a hen laying eggs like clockwork. Her boyfriend got distracted from taking pictures by a wind-up frog that turned out to resemble a childhood favorite.

Folk toys like puppets and clay figurines also took center stage at the exhibit, and visitors reminisced about "simpler" times. "We hope things such as these can divert children's attention from the cold keyboards and joysticks of their electronic games," Wang said.

The exhibit, which runs until Sunday, features a section of toys for sale, mostly wind-up ones priced from five to 200 yuan.

## Summer sales with a cultural twist



The Village Square sees many visitors every weekend.

Photo provided by The Village

By Zhang Dongya

To mark summer's arrival, beginning this weekend, The Village in Sanlitun will hold a series of art events alongside special offers in shops and restaurants.

### South Africa Through the Lens Photo Gallery

This photo exhibit, which opens today at The Orange and runs until June 10, aims to increase the public's understanding of South Africa's rich cultural traditions. It showcases the works of 10 Chinese photographers sent to South Africa to capture the country's wildlife, culture and tourist attractions. The South African embassy will also hold performances.

### World Music Day

June 21 marks the beginning of summer

in France. It is also the day for the French people's annual music festival Fete de la Musique, or World Music Day. The celebration has spread to many other countries, and this year it comes to The Piazza at The Village. The public event welcomes both professional and amateur performers; it will include a contest with huge prizes.

### Summer sales

Many retailers at The Village are rolling out a variety of promotions for shoppers. There's certainly something for everyone.

Camanae, Pretty Valley and Toni & Guy are offering beauty, skin care and hair treatments at special prices. Fanina Fanini has a 30-percent discount on selected dresses till the end of the year.

Accessories at Qiggle and VVA are also

available at reduced prices. VVA has a 20 to 50-percent discount on all accessories; and a 20-percent discount on watches and glasses. The promotion runs until July 31.

Blue Frog, Cold Stone Creamery and Peppes Pizza are offering good meal deals. Blue Frog has a Buy One Get One Free on all its burgers every Monday from 4 pm till closing time.

At Peppes Pizza, try the Lunch Deal for 39 yuan – a drink, salad and either a Norwegian salmon and broccoli spaghetti, chicken curry with banana and pineapple rice or Chicago-style deep pan pizza with Italian sausage. Alternatively, you can opt for its low-calorie, low-fat fitness lunch (29 yuan): fresh salad with grilled chicken breast and Italian herbs and a soft drink.

## Last two days of Beijing Opera Experience tour

By Chen Zao

Today and tomorrow are the last two days of the Peking Opera Experience tour, launched by the National Peking Opera Theater and the Beijing Tourism Administration. People who want to watch opera rehearsals, wear opera costumes and learn how to apply Peking Opera make-up should register as soon as possible.

The tour is divided into four parts: visits to a Peking Opera costume factory, a museum and a theater, and the viewing of a performance.

Participants will see at the factory how costumes are designed and embroidered and how stage props are created.

Next is the visit to the former residence of Mei Lanfang, one of the country's most popular opera artists, which has exhibits on his life and career. Visitors then move on to the Beijing Opera Theater, Mei's home theater. The tour ends with an opera of classics like *Farewell My Concubine*.

Gu Xiaoyuan, deputy director of the Beijing Tourism Administration, said that

besides the one-day tour, there are two other related tours: a "half-day exploration," which goes behind the scenes of a Peking Opera performance; and a "half-day appreciation tour" of performances and exhibitions. The tours cost 298 yuan and 198 yuan, respectively. Travel agencies will supervise the tours, Gu said.

Interested parties can register on byework.com. For more information, call 6508 9608 or the 24-hour hotline at 5129 9911.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:  
weiying@ynet.com

**I've noticed many of my Chinese co-workers shop on Taobao.com for all sorts of things. I can understand buying stuff like clothes online, but food or skin care products? Is it safe?**

It depends on the vendor. Whenever you shop online, the first thing to check is the vendor's credibility and comments from past customers. You can trust products that cost no less than half of their retail price in malls around town. Ten to 30 percent of revenues from cosmetics sold in department stores go to the store; taking into consideration the sales staff's salary, the brand has around a 30 to 50-percent profit margin.

**Where can I go for safe and reliable laser hair removal and how much does it cost?**

You can try a state-owned hospital like Beijing Junqu Zongyiyuan (laserbeauty.com.cn). Three sessions to remove hair on the legs, bikini area and armpits cost around 10,000 yuan. But it largely depends on the body area and how much hair needs to be removed. Consult a doctor to get a better idea.

Beijing Junqu Zongyiyuan  
Where: 8 Nongzhan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6638 5945

**Over dinner with friends, I overheard some locals saying they went skydiving in Beijing. Where can I go for that?**

To go skydiving in China, you first need to become a certified skydiver. Beijing Flying Man Aviation Sport Equipment Company, one of the country's biggest skydiving clubs, offers training. The group, based in Changping District, has been around for 10 years. For more information, call 400 888 0882.

(By Annie Wei)



# Snapping shots of street

By Wang Yu

Mainstream culture has come under the influence of hip-hop, but in a somewhat backwards way. Much of hip-hop arrived in China in second-hand form, ported by East Asian copycats making it big with rapping, DJing, break dancing and graffiti.

But as in most subcultures, the true artists remain underground due to lack of mass understanding.

Such problems are to be expected when a new art enters a society not of its origin. Fortunately almost every scrawl has been captured and preserved in the album of Llys, an active archivist of the local graffiti scene who started snapping photos of street art four years ago.

He was 51 at the time.

Llys started taking pictures in 2000 and ran across Beijing's graffiti scene in 2004 while finishing a catalog of local bars. "Early graffiti was painted on the walls in nightlife areas, and I made my first find in the Baihuashenchu Hutong. That was when I started taking pictures," he says. His art school background helps Llys to recognize and follow new art styles on the street when most see it as a vandalism of public constructions.

The art was just another Beijing discovery until Llys stumbled on the graffiti of Li Qiuqiu, another big name in the local scene who is now scrawling for Beijing Penzi crew. "That was when I started to collect articles about graffiti from newspapers and magazines to learn more. I hoped to find more in the city," he says.

Llys began walking the streets in search of street art – following every clue from the news pages until 2006, when he started a blog to post pictures and get in touch with the artists over the Internet. "It really helped me to get involved in the scene and learn more about the artists. Since then, I have been able to get photos almost as soon as they finish," he says.

With 15,000 digital pictures on his hard disk, Llys is one of the few who has continuously cataloged the last four years of street art.

"People ask me why I am doing it and my answer is simple: this art needs to be recorded. It is more than just another aspect of the city's energy – these paintings are a whole new style in China. Though there are certain areas like 798 Art Zone where the graffiti can stay, most of these pieces are painted over by authorities or demolished with the buildings. If I don't record them, then the early scene will be lost forever," Llys says.

## Developing the scene

Born on the street, created by gangsters and developed by artists, graffiti has long found a place in urban marketing in the West. Big brands like Nike and Adidas Original cooperate with artists on some of their products.

But China is different. Graffiti here never grew out of a street culture. "Commercial graffiti invaded pop culture directly before local artists could grow," Jamel Mims said.

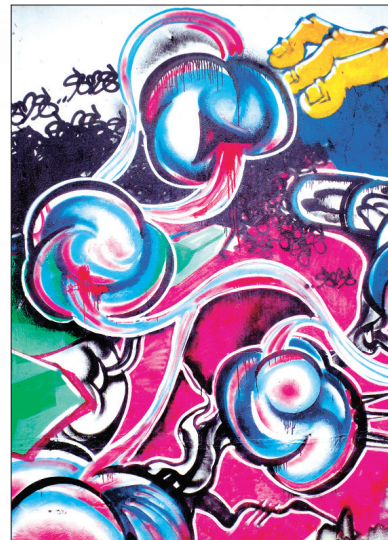
Artist Zhang Dali has painted his pattern of a swollen, sideways mug shot on city walls since 1995. "I think it was just a part of his art project rather than graffiti," Llys says. Street art remained a niche until recent years, when it was absorbed by mass media into pop culture.

## "The Teacher"

"Everyone knows him and his collections, you can just call him 'The Teacher,'" Chen Chuang, a member of ABS crew, says. Along with Jamel Mims, who came from Washington to study the Chinese graffiti scene in Beijing, the photographer showed this reporter his albums – his collection labeled neatly with dates and locations. "I only select a handful of my digital pictures for printing," Llys said.

The grey-haired photographer works for a government magazine and prefers to use only his surname, like many graffiti artists. "It's not about being cool. I'd just rather keep what I do a secret from my office," he says with a smile.

"You even have pictures of this one ... I can't even remember when I did it," Chen says to The Teacher, after spotting one of his oldest local works in one album.



Graffiti works left on a wall by Beijing Penzi at Xingba Jie on July 31, 2007.

"In China, the authorities and the media play a big role in deciding what culture is," Llys says. He shows several newspaper clips from before 2006, when graffiti was reported not as a modern art but as punishable vandalism.

"Graffiti artists caught by police on the streets in the article were actually two popular figures in the local scene. Such negative reports are less common now," Llys says. Part of the reason is that graffiti was used in the Olympic Games last year by the authorities. It was also used in fashion shows and to promote shopping malls.

## Moving on the

However, commercial graffiti artists like Chen Chuang's ABS crew and Spanish brand owner have encouraged the artists to clone a few commercial sessions, they have new ideas," Chen says.

Like many in subculture, graffiti writers are college students because they may not have a job.

Chen, who took up graffiti as a hobby, made a living as a commercial painter, but the restrictions on graffiti are strict. But some other groups are also doing commercial paintings, says Chen.

But as street art becomes more mainstream, graffiti artists will be forced to expect the quality of their work. Low pay means low-quality work, the artist. Promoters want certain patterns. It works the same name it can seriously corrupt local urban culture.

Since their work is not approved but they are doing it, many local graffiti artists are facing a dilemma: graffiti artists: on the mainland that number is growing, sooner or later," Chen says.

As the only graffiti recorder in China, Llys is collecting more information for his database. "I still have a job to do on a long term project," he says, already planning to retire.

Llys hopes to have a graffiti exhibition, but he needs venues and sponsors. The focus will not be on the lives of the artists. "If I paste these kids' paintings, they may start focusing on getting my attention, getting into college, their future," he says.

"Our generation never had a way to fight for it, mainstream when we were young, and those feelings were always bottled up," The Teacher says.



# art

as  
scene,' the two  
r figures in the  
ommon now," Llys  
sed to promote the  
It has also been used at  
lls.

## the way

mercial graffiti is a double-edged sword.  
crew cooperated with Pull and Bear, a  
d by Zara. At first the company asked  
piece for its event. "After multiple nego-  
finally allowed us to bring in original

cultures, graffiti artists must keep a balance  
activities and original creations. "Half of the  
dents and half of them quit after graduation  
have time or money to keep at it," Chen says.  
the art in 2005 in Tianjin, spends as much  
h on spray paint. "We tried to be more com-  
ctions of our sponsors were just too much.  
s, like Guanyin crew, did pretty well with their  
using their own style of Chinese characters,"

becomes common in commercial promotions,  
forced to slash their prices. Chen says he  
local graffiti to crash at that time. "Extremely  
quality paintings and bad living conditions for  
may even hire art school students to copy  
n't even be graffiti anymore, but under the  
understanding of the art," Chen says.  
ere are many commercial opportunities,  
ama. In Hong Kong there are about 100  
er is doubled. "I'm sure it will boom,

ys is also preparing for a boom by  
e. "I plan to focus on one writer  
, and recording graffiti is a  
g what to do in the scene after

though he is still shopping  
be on the works or the  
intings on my blog,  
tion rather than

t the  
e



Beijing Penzi crew's graffiti left on 798 Art Zone on August 11, 2007. The crew consists of four of the city's most talented artist.

Photos provided by Llys



# Human playfulness the origin of art

By Charles Zhu

Have you ever wondered what inspires the artwork of children? Those drawings and colors may echo the environs and lives of man's distant ancestors or the terrains and images of past millennia.

This application of evolutionary psychology to art is the premise of Denis Dutton's new book, *The Art Instinct: Beauty, Pleasure and Human Evolution* (278pp, Bloomsbury Press, US \$25).

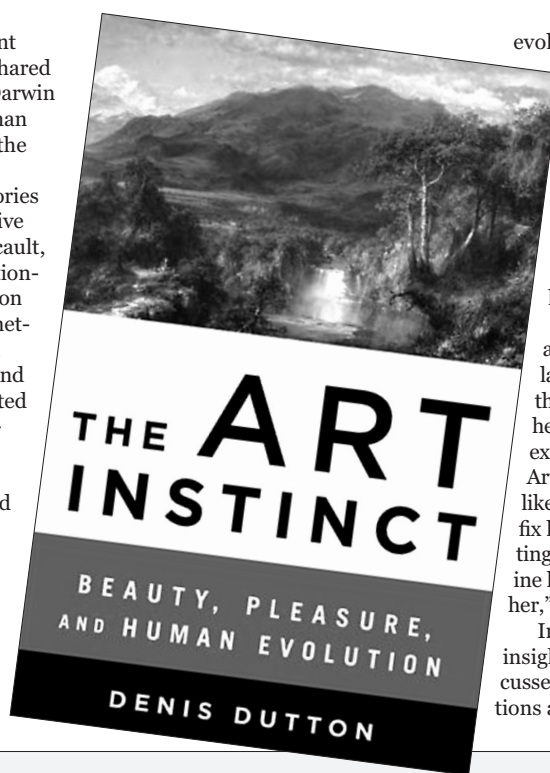
Dutton, a professor of art philosophy at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, is the founder and editor of the Web site Arts & Letters Daily. He traces the origins of art using Darwinian aesthetics.

Charles Darwin studied psychology inadvertently when he researched the expression of emotions. His academic attention was not limited to humans:

he also studied distant common ancestors shared with other species. Darwin said parts of the human psyche may predate the Stone Age.

Based on the theories of Aristotle, Kant, Clive Bell and Michel Foucault, and guided by evolutionary psychology, Dutton says Darwinian aesthetics explains the birth of literature, music and painting. All are related to prehistoric preferences, interests and capacities.

Art historians and art psychologists trace the beginnings of art to the Pleistocene epoch, 1.6 million years ago. In the ensuing 80,000 generations of mankind, humans have



evolved artistic instincts necessary to reproduce and create giants like Beethoven, Picasso and Hemingway.

The desire for the attention of potential mates was the key to cultivating artistic skill among prehistoric humans, Dutton says.

This rings true with an old Chinese adage: "A lady prettifies herself for the one who appreciates her beauty." An interesting example is offered by pianist Arthur Rubinstein. "What he liked to do at a recital was to fix his eye on some lovely sitting near the stage and imagine he was playing just for her," Dutton writes.

In his penetrating and insightful treatise, Dutton discusses the role of artists' intentions and Dadaist provocations,

like Marcel Duchamp's Dadaist "Fountain": a urinal put forward for exhibition in 1917. Dutton says the desire to see original art also stems from art's ancient function of showing the artist wanted a desirable mate: The most original impulse for making art is to please the potential mate, he says.

It is interesting to consider Dutton's theory that the desire to impress potential mates helped spread artistic skills amongst our ancestors. It would mean that sexual desire is the most primitive and primary driving force of art.

No matter whether it originates from the Lascaux cave painting 16,000 years ago, the plump and bosomy Venus of Willendorf 9,000 years ago, or from the Pleistocene epoch, a wealth of intermediate steps leads from the crudest, humblest art to wonderful modern results.

## Nostalgia, cartoons dominate artist's work

By He Jianwei

Little girls, representing the core of human nature, run like a thread through the works of Chen Ke, one of China's most prominent young artists.

"Even though the references to cartoon art are obvious, elements of the West's master artists and traditional Chinese painting are visible when analyzing her works in more detail. It's an exciting tension," Christoph Noe, a contemporary Chinese art expert, said.

Last month, Noe and Cordelia Steiner edited *Chen Ke: Young Master* (148pp, Kehrer Art Book Publisher Heidelberg, 280 yuan), the first monograph of the artist by an international art book publisher.

The book contains pictures of Chen's paintings and personal quotes on selected paintings.

"Being keen to experiment, Chen Ke surprises her viewers oftentimes. Not only does she manufacture her own paper and embroider canvas with beads, but she also

paints in oil on the stretched cotton fabrics popular in her childhood," Noe said.

The paintings for which she became famous were inspired by animated cartoons and comics: Most are categorized as "cartoon" paintings. But Chen attributes most of her influences to the school she attended: the Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts in Chongqing.

"In the Academy, we didn't have many resources, there were no models to imitate and our works were often inspired by our own emotions and instincts. Animation and cartoons are something I've been in contact with continuously since childhood. When I started to work in such a free environment, these images immediately came out," Chen said.

The realness and dynamism of the surrounding environment, the days spent with friends, and her delay in abandoning childhood are evident. At first, the artist's imagery was composed mainly of these subjects, these memories

and by a visual heritage that left its mark on all those born at the end of the 1970s.

But another atmosphere, more melancholy, mirrors the loneliness and fear Chen found after she moved to Beijing.

Now she experiments with a new type of painting that leaves large areas of canvas blank while the figures are encircled in small clouds, as though they were comic vignettes.

However, in one of her newest pieces, "With You, I'll Never Feel Lonely," Chen poured her history not only into the painting, but into her choice of furniture and antiques used to support her subjects.

All the subjects were collected from second-hand markets. They date back to the 1970s and early 1980s, when the artists was a child.

When she went back and visited her parents' house, Chen found again a sense of familiarity and nostalgia for her childhood.

Chen has been featured in exhibitions



at the Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien in Austria and the National Art Museum of China.

The 30-year-old artist has a large fan base both in Asia and in Western countries like Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the UK. Her works appear in both private and public collections.

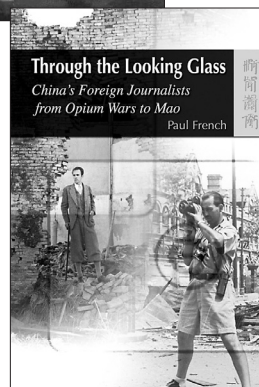
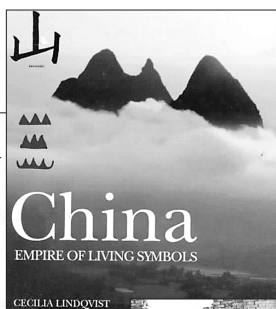
## Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following best sellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

### Follow the Rabbit-proof Fence

By Doris Pilkington, 160pp, Miramax, US \$11.00

Following an Australian government edict in 1931, black aboriginal children and children of mixed marriages were gathered up and taken to settlements to be institutionally assimilated. In this book, the author traces the story of her mother, Molly, one of three young girls uprooted from their community in Southwestern Australia and taken to the Moore River Native Settlement. There, Molly and her relatives Gracie and Daisy were forbidden to speak their native language, forced to abandon their heritage, and taught to be culturally British. After regular stays in solitary confinement, the three girls planned and executed a daring escape from the grim camp.



### China: Empire of Living Symbols

By Cecilia Lindqvist, 448pp, Da Capo Press, US \$25.00

Many of the 50,000 Chinese characters in use today can be traced back to ancient inscriptions on oracle bones and bronzework. Drawing on archeological finds of recent decades, Lindqvist, a Swedish scholar who studied Chinese writing in Beijing, tells the fascinating stories behind the meaning and evolution of scores of Chinese characters. She notes that the original character for "hand" may well have been a picture of a hand with five fingers; neolithic jars were prototypes for the character for "wine"; the character for "speak or word" has a basic meaning, "large flute."

### Through the Looking Glass

By Paul French, 240pp, Hong Kong University Press, US \$39.50

Examining the convulsive history of ancient China's press corps from the first newspapers printed in the European factories of Canton in the 1820s through 120 years of change and war: the author's new book is a fascinating study of foreign reportage of China.

(By He Jianwei)



# iFair ensures craftsmen their fair share

By He Jianwei

The second Saturday of May is World Fair Trade Day. Although the fair is on its seventh year, few know about it on the Chinese mainland.

Last month, the first ads for the domestic iFair were posted by an NGO in Shanghai. This year's fair will not only provide a platform for promoting trade in creative handicrafts, but also protect the tradition of mainland craftwork.

"Beat poverty. Beat climate change. Beat the financial crisis" is the theme of this year's World Trade Day. The NGO iFair's theme is the same.

The NGO, was founded by Liu Qiongiong, an editor at a lifestyle magazine, and Chen Lecong, a PR agent. "We always wanted to do something to eliminate poverty. Donations aren't the only option. We chose to host the trade fair to help craftspeople to improve their lives," they said.

The main purpose of the fair is to give marginalized producers access to the market and customers without harmful middlemen.

Many traditional Chinese handicrafts are in danger of extinction. To protect minority groups, Liu founded the NGO and suggested granting handmade products a special label saying they were part of the iFair.

There are three S standards for iFair products. The first S is "Slow," which means the product must be produced slowly. All the products are made without chemicals and fertilizers, and include organic tea, cotton and vegetables. Everything is woven or embroidered by hand to prevent the emission of waste gasses.

The second S is "Small," which is for small-scale production. The producer can put his product into production with a small amount of money using his or her home workshop.



Shokay is one company selling fair crafts in Shanghai. Its knits are made from yak fibers, purchased direct from Tibetan herders.

The third S is "Sustainable." The production process must not contribute to deforestation or pollution of the air and water.

Although there are many handicraft makers on the Chinese mainland, only three places can sell products bearing the iFair's label: two in Shanghai and one in Guangzhou.

Shokay is one company selling fair crafts in Shanghai. It was founded as a social enterprise by women classmates and friends on Chongming Island in 2005.

Eleven people have joined the

Shokay team. Viola Zhang, one of members, began knitting when she was seven and loved it ever since. When she was young, her father discouraged her from the craft because he thought it would affect her studies.

However, she continued to knit in secret and improved her skills. She has knit many gifts for her friends and family, and they always love her work. Zhang actually majored in chemistry and worked in the chemical industry prior to joining Shokay in 2006 after responding to an Internet post.

Since joining the team, she has been able to pursue her passion. Designing new products for Shokay has given her a great sense of accomplishment.

The team weaves with yak fibers, purchased direct from Tibetan herders. The company aims to enable the herders to earn a sustainable living while preserving their traditional lifestyle. "We believe that by investing and reinvesting our success into the local communities, we ensure the opportunity of choice for future Tibetan generations," Zhang said.

By introducing luxury yak handicrafts to the global market, they hope to create a market for yak fiber and increase its value.

By increasing the economic value of yak rearing, a traditional skill, local communities will face

less pressure to migrate into the cities in search of greater employment opportunities. "This provides them with the choice to preserve their traditional way of life and instills a pride in their own culture, which is particularly important for marginalized ethnic communities," she said.

Purchasing raw fiber is a zero pollution activity and will help prevent problems such as overgrazing. Raw fiber is shed naturally once a year by yaks indigenous to the Himalayan region.

"We currently work with 2,600 people from the Heimahe Village of Qinghai Province in Western China, providing a sustainable source of employment and income to these herders. By setting up fiber cooperatives in each sub-village, it is our goal to help grow each ecosystem to provide a safe and transparent vehicle for addressing local development."

Although iFair is on its first year, the NGO learned much from the Japanese NGO People Tree, a fair trade fashion pioneer working with 50 fair trade groups in 15 countries to produce organic clothes.

"We want to organize young designers to walk into the folk craftsmen's life, to learn from them, and to find inspiration in traditional Chinese handicrafts," Liu said.



The NGO, iFair, aims to give marginalized producers access to the market and customers without harmful middlemen.



# Treasures at home

Specialty products from various provinces and regions

By Annie Wei

As the world shrinks, finding one-of-a-kind gifts is becoming more and more difficult. Malls and supermarkets offer products that are heavily advertised nationwide, so if you shop there you can safely say you will be one of hundreds of people with the same item.

But there are still businesses that put a premium on uniqueness and variety: small shops that sell Chinese regional specialties. This week, *Beijing Today* introduces you to two of them and your best possible buys for a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.



Guizhou tofu made of water and local plant ash, 18 yuan



Xinjiang loulou tea, 68 yuan



Organic honey rose jam, 39 yuan



Inside Dahongli store

## The taste of home

This shop exists to offer a wide range of options to people who regard gift-giving as an important Chinese social etiquette.

From the outside, nothing distinguishes Dahongli from other similar-sized stores. (Local window dressing still has a long way to go, if you ask me.) But once you step inside, you'll realize there is more to this place than meets the eye.

The shop sells delicacies from various provinces and regions, Vietnamese snacks, as well as arts and crafts, jewelry, tonics and liquors. Most shoppers might not be able to tell genuine from fake jewelry, but those who can will not be disappointed by Dahongli's merchandise.

Yu Dedong, the store manager, spent the past three years going around the country trying to get familiar with local specialties. In a nation with 56 minority groups and a varied climate and geography, there was almost another world of unique food and cultural treasures to uncover. Yu said Dahongli's food products are the most representative of delicacies in various provinces and regions.

The store, which opened a few months

ago, has attracted many customers who are natives of other provinces who come to buy food from their hometowns. If you're someone who misses the taste of home, be careful when you visit Dahongli; you can easily spend several hundred yuan on snacks.

### Xinjiang

Xinjiang is known for producing the country's best roses, fruits and honey. Try its chrysanthemum tea (89 yuan), grown organically in very high altitudes; and rose honey (38 yuan) made by soaking roses in organic honey and sugar, and which may be added to drinks or used as a jam. Regular honey is also available for 38 yuan.

### Hainan

People who love spicy food should try the Hainan pepper jam (3.60 yuan), which has a strong yellow pepper and garlic flavor. It is handy to have in the kitchen when preparing noodles or chicken dishes.

### Shandong

Health studies say pomegranate juice is rich in vitamins and can prevent cancer. Dahongli sells pure pomegranate juice for 14 yuan a bottle; there is also 70 percent pomegranate

juice for 11 yuan.

The store has 80 percent blueberry juice (8 yuan), another fruit rare in China that is said to be good for one's eyesight. Its olive juice (5 yuan) is made up of 20 percent olive juice mixed with water and sugar, but has a strong fresh olive flavor.

### Ningxia

*Huangqi* (20 yuan for a big bag), an herb used in Chinese Traditional Medicine, figures in Cantonese cooking, particularly soups, as it is said to promote blood circulation. People who cannot cook can simply soak a tea-bag-full of *huangqi*, add some red dates, and presto – it is ready to drink!

Customers who spend 500 yuan are eligible for free delivery.

### Shaanxi

Try its well-known Huanggui rice wine (9 yuan for 600ml), which has a lower alcohol degree than beer.

### Dahongli

Where: 274 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9:30 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8402 4685; 13910684753 (for group orders)

Web site: dahongli88.com



Sugar free wild date juice, 30 yuan per box



Famous Xi'an rice wine, 9 yuan



Hainan yellow pepper jam, 3.60 yuan Photos by Yu Tingmei



Store front



Xu Jiabing, store manager

## Xinjiang specialties

Ibeiwei, a Xinjiang specialty store, is located in the heart of town – close to Face Bar, Melody KTV and Best Buy.

The shop is owned by a man from Xinjiang's capital Urumqi, so this place knows its business.

Xu Jiabing, Ibeiwei's manager who is also a native of Xinjiang, recommends the store's dried fruits like grapes, plums, apples and tomatoes (10-12 yuan per bag of 500 grams). These are all-natural; without any artificial flavoring. Xu said that anyone who has tasted Xinjiang

dried fruits will never want to eat other kinds again.

Big Xinjiang red dates cost 65 yuan per kilogram; not cheap by local standards, but their crispness and sweetness will be worth the cost.

The yellow rose is a rare wild flower that only grows in a certain area in Xinjiang and only yields 1,000 kilograms worth of blossoms yearly. It has a strong but nice fragrance suitable for making tea; three to five rose buds is enough for a cup of tea. A jar at Ibei-

wei costs 68 yuan. The store also has dry safflower at 58 yuan a jar.

Among China's 56 minority groups, Xinjiang females are famed for having the most beautiful eyelashes. They are said to use the juice of the *Osmen* plant to grow such beautiful lashes. *Osmen* juice is available at Ibeiwei for 198 yuan; a deal compared to lab-manufactured cosmetics – if you believe in this beautification ritual.

The shop also has a good selection of Xinjiang wines that range from 28 to 218 yuan a bottle.

Xu said that their wines are all made by local grapes from small wineries.

### Ibeiwei Xinjiang specialty store

Where: 7 Gongti Nan Lu Xi, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 13718400733

Web site: ibaiwei.com

Photos by Yu Tingmei



Big dates, 65 yuan



Safflower, 58 yuan



Dry fruits, 10 yuan



# Summer meals with a streetside atmosphere

By Annie Wei

This week, Beijing Today presents three new restaurants that provide an antidote to big feasts and oily meals.

## Real, affordable Guilin

Guilin Mifen in Dongcheng District, which has been around for at least a decade, has won many loyal customers with its authentic Guangxi dishes. The ingredients it uses, the way it prepares red peppers and the way it uses oil recreates the smell and flavor of a Guangxi village.

The Guilin rice noodle (7 to 9 yuan) is the restaurant's most popular item, but its other dishes are worth trying.

There's the generous serving of dried hotpot duck (48 yuan), which contains duck meat, dried bamboo shoots, spring onions, garlic and other local spices cooked in a hotpot till the liquid evaporates. In summer, the food is served minus the hotpot container, which makes the air in the restaurant uncomfortably hot.

Sour bamboo shoots fried with beef (or other meat) for 28 yuan is something to order if you want to experience real Guangxi cuisine. Some people love bamboo shoots, while others cannot stand their smell; better decide in which team you belong.

Diners get free orange-colored tea made from Guangxi dried crab apples, which are less sour than Beijing's crab apples. Crab apple tea is known to boost one's appetite.

This is the season to try Guilin Mifen's ice green bean congee (3 yuan), which is only available in the summer. The green beans and rice are cooked long enough to give them a soft texture, then white sugar is added since people from the south have a sweeter tooth than northerners.

### Guilin Mifen

Where: Meisuguan Hou Jie (on the alley next to Sanlian Bookstore), Dongcheng District

Tel: 6401 4955

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Cost: starting from 10 yuan



Rice noodle, 7 yuan



Dried hotpot duck, 48 yuan



Sour bamboo shoots with pork, 22 yuan



The ultimate comfort meal  
Photos by Wendy Zha

## Beijing duck for 68 yuan



Jingzun's facade

Photo by Wendy Zha

The opening of Jingzun Roast Duck on Chunxiu Lu, just off Dongzhimen Avenue, is welcome news to area residents who are looking for food variety beyond Italian and Sichuan.

The two-floor restaurant is an ideal choice for someone who suddenly gets a Peking Duck craving, but does not want to blow his or her recessionary budget by going to Liqun or Dadong; or brave the maze-like alleys to reach Liqun.

Jingzun's Peking Duck tastes good, but people who prefer their roast duck drier might find it too watery and the flavor not rich enough. But for 68 yuan for the whole deal – duck, cucumber, spring onions, hoisin sauce, wrappers – who can complain? It takes 50 minutes to prepare a duck, so diners are advised to call the restaurant and order ahead.

Like the drill in other Peking Duck restaurants, customers can ask to have their duck bones made into a soup or deep fried.

Jingzun serves other meat dishes, which cost between 25 and 48 yuan. It also has a variety of cold dishes priced from 15 to 25 yuan.

The restaurant makes its own drinks like rice wine, rose, water lily and green plum drinks (5 yuan a bottle; 28 yuan a jar), but the flower and fruit drinks taste a bit too sweet and artificial.

Diners who want a nice window view should pick a seat on the second floor; those who want to enjoy the street atmosphere and early summer breeze can grab a table outside.

### Jingzun Kaoya

Where: North side of Building 6, Taipingzhuang Nan Li, Chunxiu Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6417 4075

Cost: 40 yuan per person



A bowl of Vietnamese noodle and salad



Vietnamese noodle, 39 yuan



Chef Jun Trinh

Photos by Yu Tingmei

## Refreshing Vietnamese for summer

Their small number is the reason Vietnamese restaurants in town are pricey. But nothing can beat this Southeast Asian cuisine's light taste, fresh ingredients and healthy cooking methods – the best choice for hot weather. It's no wonder then that the newly opened Vietnamese restaurant in an alley in Sanlitun is always packed.

Pho, a small and cozy second-floor restaurant, specializes in Vietnamese rice noodles and salads. Customers who take a table in their small balcony will get a view overlooking the busy, chaotic alley, much like the atmosphere in a touristy Vietnamese city.

The rice noodle is a staple in Vietnam and some southern Chinese provinces. To make a bowl of rice noodle is easy, but to make them lip-smacking takes experience. Pho knows its business; it has six different kinds of Vietnamese rice noodles on its menu, the most popular being beef rice noodles (39 yuan). The stock is prepared with beef, bones, onion and lemongrass by a Vietnamese chef and cooked a day before it is served.

Unlike Western salads, Vietnamese salads use a lot of lemongrass, Thai basil, peppermint and sour and spicy sauces, which give them a distinct bite.

Michelle Yu, 37, a freelance food and movie critic from Taiwan, gave Pho a thumbs-up for authenticity and variety. "Authentic dry rice noodles are not easy to find in Beijing, but Pho has them," Yu said.

She also said the restaurant's food is cheaper than other Vietnamese restaurants, like Muse at the west gate of Chaoyang Park and Nam Nam, which used to be in Sanlitun but is now closed. Yu and a friend were satisfied with light dinner of a shared bowl of rice noodle and order of salad, which cost 65 yuan.

From June 5 to 11, Pho will celebrate its opening by giving diners 10 percent off all food items; its happy hour will be extended until 10 pm during that period.

### Pho

Where: Alley behind 3.3 shopping center, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6413 2786

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Cost: 40 yuan



# Top conductor takes final bow with US NSO

By He Jianwei

Ivan Fischer, regarded as among the best conductors of the last 20 years, will resign next year as principal conductor of the US National Symphony Orchestra (NSO). This month, he travels to Macau, Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an in his last concert tour with the orchestra.

Fischer, born in Budapest in 1951, has always held close to his heart the younger generation's classical music education. "The younger generation's enthusiasm is a precious gift to classical music. It's a great delight to work together with young artists," he said.

Fischer began his international conducting career with the BBC Symphony after winning the Rupert Foundation's conducting competition in London in 1976. He then took the baton at the London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and finally, the National Symphony Orchestra.

In 1983, he gave up opportunities to collaborate with world-famous orchestras to establish the Budapest Festival Orchestra (BFO). "It might be the best choice I have made in my life," he said.

The partnership of Fischer and the BFO is one of today's music success stories. Fischer developed intense rehearsal methods for the musicians, emphasizing chamber music and creative work. Fischer and the BFO have since toured internationally and made a series of acclaimed recordings for Philips Classics, which showcased their remarkable chemistry.

"Some people say I'm successful in classi-



cal music because of my intense rehearsals, but that's not exactly true. I'm not always strict with my members. I often encourage their creativity – both the NSO and the BFO. I give them opportunities to communicate with me and with each other. I won't ask them to perform by just following what I think," he said.

After his final bow with the NSO, he will return to Hungary to concentrate on the Budapest Festival Orchestra. "The BFO is always a key point in my work," he said.

The orchestra's achievements have contributed to Fischer's reputation as a visionary and singularly inspiring orchestra leader.

## The US National Symphony Orchestra Concert

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: June 11-12, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-780 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

## Upcoming

### Exhibition

#### Insiders Looking In

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Feijiacun Art Studio, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: June 14 – July 16, daily except Monday, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6438 5747

## Stage in July

### Concert

#### Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra – China Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District  
When: July 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006

#### Bache Cycle

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District  
When: July 17, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### In a Romantic Mood – The Newstead Trio Concert

Where: Concert Hall of The National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: July 17, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-500 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Beethoven Cycle by Jean-Efflam Bavouzet 7

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District  
When: July 24, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-600 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### Dance

#### The Rain of Flowers Along the Silk Road

##### – Dance Drama

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: July 9-10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Don Quixote –

##### Spanish Modern Dance

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: July 29 – August 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

#### The 2nd China International Youth Arts Week

##### – The Marriage of Figaro

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: July 12-14, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 6462 8470

#### Tea – The Heart's Mirror

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: July 30-31, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

## 5 Friday, June 5

### Exhibition

#### Going to the Other Side – Liu Yaoxian Solo Exhibition



Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North Renzhuang Village, Songzhuang County, Tongzhou District

When: Until June 30, daily 9 am – 9 pm (reservations necessary)  
Admission: 20 yuan  
Tel: 6959 8343

#### Yipai, Century Thinking – Reflections of Chinese Contemporary Art

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 22, daily 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan for students  
Tel: 5876 0600

### Movie

#### The Legend of 1900

Where: Nuanshan Cafe, 2/F Haojing Plaza, 108 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District  
When: 6 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan (includes food and drinks)  
Tel: 13911590742

### Nightlife

#### 2009 Meet Victoria Beach Concert

Where: Tuanjiehu Park, 16 Tuanjiehu Nanli, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 am – 10 pm  
Admission: 35 yuan  
Tel: 6467 0620

#### Pet Conspiracy

Where: Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

## 6 Saturday, June 6

### Exhibition

#### Meschac Gaba – Sweetness

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 28, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan  
Tel: 8459 9269

#### Originaire – Installation Exhibition

Where: Deshan Art Space, West Beigao Village (next to Jingshun Lu), Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 8, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6433 2622

### Nightlife

#### J. Rocc (The Beat Junkies)

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 9 pm

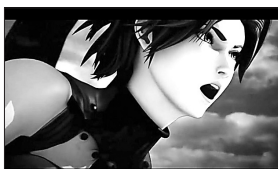
Admission: 80 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

#### Super VC + Convenient Store

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: 80 yuan  
Tel: 6460 5512

### Movie

#### Vexille



Where: 1905 Movie Club, B2, 6 Xiangjun Bei Li, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 2 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan  
Tel: 6591 8189

## 7 Sunday, June 7

### Exhibition

#### Hurried Words

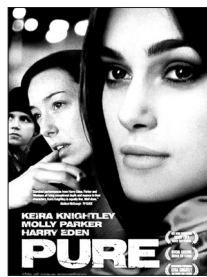
Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until July 18, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan  
Tel: 8459 9269

#### Posture Language

Where: New Age Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9282

### Movie

#### Pure



Where: Lele Bar, 1 Dingfuzhuang Dong Jie (opposite the Communication University of China's north gate), Chaoyang District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6576 5987

### Nightlife

#### Jazzers in Jianghu

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 2 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6401 4611

#### Seven-day Rock Music Week

Where: Lao What Bar, 72 Beichang Jie, Xicheng District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan  
Tel: 13341122157



By Venus Lee

Although perspiration is usually related to vitality and health, few people enjoy being drenched in their own stink. But experts say many common ailments, like cold viruses, rashes and sleep disorders, may have their roots in insufficient perspiration.



CFP Photo

# Sometimes it's good to sweat over health

## Shutting down the glands

Sweating is as essential to health as eating and breathing, but a lack of activity and abuse of air-conditioning hinder that basic function, said Zhu Xuejun, professor of the Dermatology Department at the First Hospital of Beijing University, and Zhang Yimin, vice secretary-general of the Human Physique Research Association of China Sport Science Society (CSSS).

A previous survey conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) showed that physical inactivity is the leading cause of many chronic diseases and death. Among patients with ischemic heart disease, obesity or cancer, 15 to 20 percent developed their condition by not exercising enough.

People who do not exercise regularly have a 2.5 times greater chance of developing heart disease, and conservative estimates suggest 60 percent of adults are in this category. "Not exercising means missing out on a chance to sweat naturally," Zhang said.

Constant exposure to air-conditioning is another reason people sweat less. Although many enjoy a cool breeze in the hot summer, universal abuse of the technology deprives the body of its chance to sweat. Long-term exposure to air-conditioned rooms causes many physical disorders, he said.

"If people stay in air-conditioned rooms too often, it will weaken immunity, blunt their ability to sense changes in temperature and make it easier for them to catch a cold."

## How much sweat is too much?

But could excessive sweat be a sign of other body problems? Zhu says "No."

How much one perspires varies from person to person. Some people may have obvious beads of sweat rolling down their face and others may not. "People who have a lot of fluids will sweat more than others," he

said. Drinking a huge bottle of water before exercise will effectively "tank up" your body, causing you to sweat more during the activity, Zhu says.

The body has 2 to 4 million sweat glands covering all its surfaces, except for mucosal membranes. Perspiration is divided into perceptible sweat and

imperceptible. When the temperature is below 30 C, most sweat will be imperceptible as it works its way through blood and other cells to the surface of the skin. "Even without activity or a hot bath, the body loses around a liter of water every day through imperceptible perspiration," he said.

But excessive sweating during periods of inactivity may be a sign of ill health. "Night sweats and spontaneous sweating go hand in hand with other conditions," he said. Chinese medical theory blames night sweats on a deficiency of yin, cold energy, and *qi*, vital energy.

## Sweating at the sauna

Those who work from 9-to-5 and who do not want to make time for sports can try to work up a sweat at the sauna.

"Sitting in a sauna can be a vigorous activity for people short on time. The heat produces an artificial 'fever' and urges every organ of the body into action. While outwardly relaxed, your inner organs are as active as if you were jogging or mowing the lawn. It also gives the body a chance to cleanse itself through the skin, the largest organ," Zhang said.

Throughout history, physicians have extolled the medicinal value of the sweat bath in its various forms such as the Finnish sauna, Russian *banai*, Islamic hammam, or the American

Indian sweat lodge. "Today, enthusiasts claim that the sauna gives relief from the common cold, arthritis, headaches, hangovers and 'just about anything that ails you.' Even if these claims are somewhat exaggerated, medical evidence shows saunas have a profoundly beneficial effect on a healthy body," he said.

He said when lounging in a sauna, heat sensitive nerve endings produce acetylcholine, a chemical which alerts the 2.3 million sweat glands embedded in the skin. But not all of them respond. The apocrine sweat glands, located in the pubic and armpit areas, are activated only by emotional stimuli. They carry a faint scent whose purpose is believed to stimulate the sex drive.

## Sweat from activity best

Chinese medical theory says the sweat generated by physical exercise is the best type, since it is a deeper level of perspiration rather than brought on by a superficial change in temperature.

"It is not a must to sweat heavily through strenuous exercise; moderate exercise that causes slight perspiration is enough," Zhu said. He said people can play badminton and soccer a couple times a week to

improve their metabolism.

However, excessive perspiration can cause a substantial loss in body fluids, so don't force it. "Don't exhaust yourself too much or it can impact your appetite and your ability to sleep at night," Zhu said.

He also recommended rehydrating and replenishing electrolytes after exercise with water, soda or salted sports drinks.

## What about the odor?

Human sweat glands can be broken into two groups: exocrine glands, which are distributed all over the body, and apocrine glands, concentrated on the armpits, scalp and genitals.

He said the sweat secreted from exocrine glands is clear and odorless, but sweat from apocrine glands, which contains sticky proteins, becomes smelly only after decomposition.

"Odor is only created by the presence of bacteria, so don't inten-

tionally restrict yourself from perspiration. What you need to do is to pay attention to cleanliness and personal hygiene," he said.

Bathing regularly with an antibacterial soap is recommended. You should also change and wash your clothes frequently, and expose them to the sun to kill any bacteria. It is also best to avoid spicy food, alcohol, excitement, fatigue and nervousness. You can also use an antiperspirant to decrease the activity of sweat glands in key areas.

## Benefits of sweat

Perspiration is the body's first mechanism to maintain homeostasis, a body temperature of 37 C.

Skin moistening and beautifying effects are another important function. Zhu said

sweat, along with lipid secretions from the sebaceous glands, can become a kind of emulsifying membrane to prevent the loss of water on the body's surface and to soften the skin and keep it flexible. "You could say sweat is the best natural skin care

agent. If such natural barrier functions are lost, the skin will become dry and prone to rashes," he said.

Third, perspiration can enhance digestion and improve sleep. Chinese medical theory says fatigue depletes energy and excessive comfort makes

its sluggish. "Limited perspiration combined with slow *qi* and circulation will wreck one's appetite and cause nervous problems that interfere with sleep," he said.

Perspiration can also help to expel metabolic wastes. Almost 99 percent of sweat is

water, and less than one percent of what is left is urea, ammonia and lactic acid. "It is a very important way to expel toxins. Frequent sweating will improve metabolism and lighten the burden the body places on the kidneys," he said.



# A train ride to the past

## Following the tracks of China's 100-year-old railway



Qinglongqiao Station, restored as a railway museum, showcases the 100-year history of Chinese railroad.

By Zhang Dongya

A hundred years ago – on August 11, 1909 – construction was completed on the Jingzhang Railway, which ran from Beijing to Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province. This section of the national railway was the first designed and built by the Chinese people; previous ones were done by French, British and Belgian nationals. Jingzhang's chief engineer Zhan Tianyou, recognized as "The Father of China's Railroad," conquered a steep incline near the Badaling Great Wall by creating a "switchback" or a zigzag design.

Three weeks ago, after a year's restoration work, Qinglongqiao Railway, on which the switchback is located, reopened to visitors to commemorate its centennial. The small station, dubbed a "living fossil of Chinese railways," gives a microscopic view of the public transportation's history.

### A railway museum

Just two years ago, some locals would get up early to buy a ticket at the Beijing North Railway Station for Train 7173 bound for Qinglongqiao. The ride cost 3.50 yuan, but not many passengers took this route; the few who did were headed for the final stop: Badaling. After a two-hour journey, the train would change directions at Qinglongqiao.

Qinglongqiao station closed last July for repairs. Everyday, at least six trains would stop there for a minute on their way in and out of Beijing as it was a necessary turning point. But no passengers were allowed to get on or off the station.

The renovation gave it back its original look: steel-grey walls and red gates. A monument was added to mark the intersection of the railroad and the Great Wall: two cement blocks, which represented the Wall, were placed on either side of a railroad track miniature. The objects were even set at an angle of three degrees to stay true to Qinglongqiao Railway's design.

At the turn of the century, male and female passengers were expected to keep a distance from each other, even while waiting for a train. The station's waiting room recreated its appearance from that

period: a separate room for men and women. Each was labeled with a wooden board inscribed with traditional characters written from right to left.

The waiting room also serves as an exhibition area filled with old photographs telling the history of Jingzhang Railway.

Another exhibition showcases old railroad parts and memorabilia, like sections of the railway from 1898 and 1915 and tickets from the early 1900s. There is also a room that recreates the moment Jingzhang Railway was declared finished: Xu Shichang, president of the republic from 1918 to 1922, approved the end of the project in his office after the tracks were inspected.

Beside the station stands a statue of its chief engineer Zhan, built by the China Institute of Engineers after Zhan died in 1919. Behind the statue is his tomb, constructed in 1982 in the shape of a railway platform.

Yang Cunxin, 47, director of Qinglongqiao station, goes to work by train every day. "The restored station has become a museum of Chinese railway open to the public for free, but I still expect it to attract passengers like before," he said.

**Getting there:** Take Fast Bus 919 from Deshengmen to Badaling; the station is 20 minutes away on foot



A recreation of Qinglongqiao's waiting hall for women

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

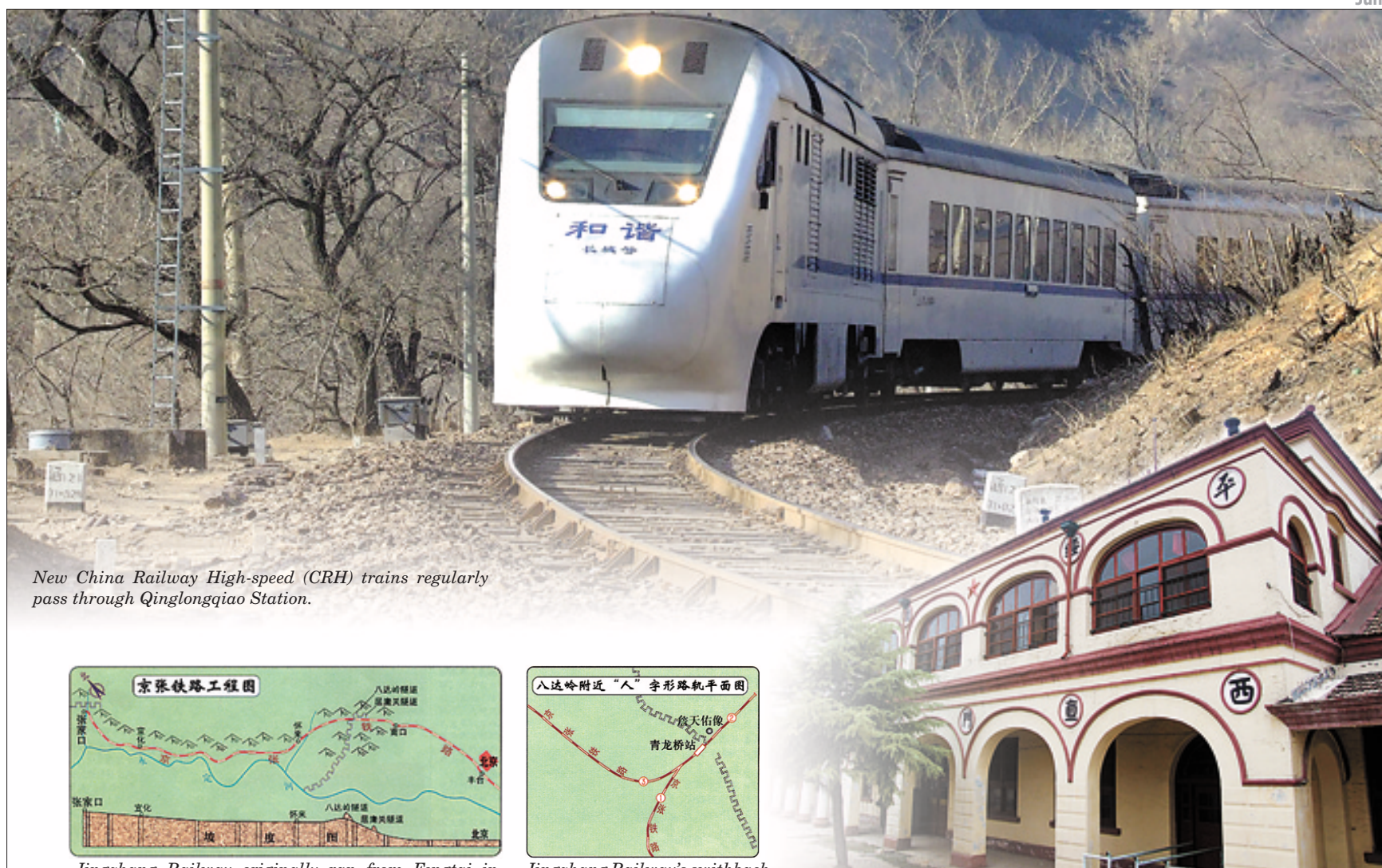


Zhan Tianyou's statue and tomb at Qinglongqiao Station can be seen from trains passing by.

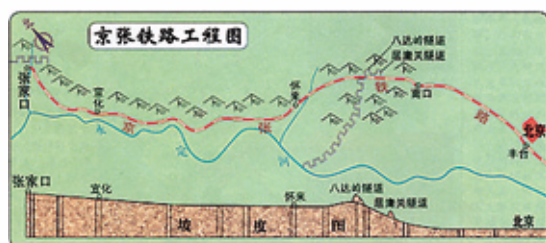
CFP Photos

Continued on page 21...

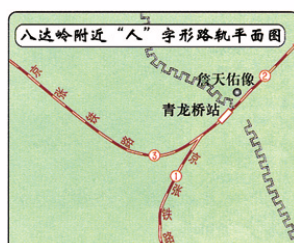




New China Railway High-speed (CRH) trains regularly pass through Qinglongqiao Station.



Jingzhang Railway originally ran from Fengtai in Beijing to Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province.



Jingzhang Railway's swithback is located in Qinglongqiao.

The Beijing North Railway Station used to be called Xizhimen Station. CFP Photos

... continued from page 20

## Birth of China's railroad

The country's first railway was a small section of track built for the exclusive use of Empress Dowager Cixi. Yuan Shikai, who became the first president of the republic from 1912 to 1916, decided to construct it for Cixi so she could visit her ancestors' tombs.

Zhan was one of 30 students sent to the US for education by the Qing court during the dynasty's waning years. He went to Yale and majored in civil engineering with an emphasis in railroad construction. He graduated in 1878 and was recalled to China soon after.

Because of his background, he was assigned chief engineer of a 37-kilometer section of the railway. He managed to complete the project within the budget despite a tight schedule.

In 1905, the Qing government decided to build a railroad to link the capital to Kalgan, an important trade city in the north later renamed Zhangjiakou. This railway would be of strategic importance to the imperial government, so officials wanted it completed without foreign assistance. Zhan was once again appointed chief engineer of the project.

At the beginning, people were skeptical the Qing government would be able to construct a railroad through the rugged mountains without foreign help. Zhan took that as a challenge and completed the railway two years ahead of schedule and within the budget.

He overcame Badaling's difficult terrain by designing tracks zigzagging upward near Qinglongqiao railway station. He used a "vertical shaft construction method" to speed up work while excavating the tunnel in Badaling.

The success of Jingzhang Railway restored the people's national confidence and played an important role in the development of domestic transportation during that period.



The original Qinghuayuan Station, repurposed as residences, is hidden inside a hutong. Photo by BlueSky

## Jingzhang Railway's sections in Beijing

Jingzhang Railway, which originally extended from Fengtai District to Zhangjiakou, now begins at the Beijing North Railway Station. Designed by Zhan in the shape of a ship, the North Railway Station was renamed from Xizhimen in 1988. It was given a facelift in 2005, the biggest change ever seen by any station along the railway line.

There were 14 stations when the railway was completed in 1909; now there are only seven.

Qinghuayuan is one of the remaining stations. It was built in 1910 with a wall bearing Zhan's writing. A new station was erected beside it in the 1950s, near Tsinghua University, to take people to and from north and south Beijing.

The original Qinghuayuan station is now hidden inside a *hutong* near Chengfu Lu, Haidian District. It has been repurposed as residences and all its arched doors have been fitted with secure doors.

Jingzhang's last station within Beijing is Kangzhuang in Yanqing County, which is no longer used. On the station's east side are old tracks in 1898 and 1905, and an old reservoir that served steam locomotives can also be seen.

Jingzhang Railway now forms a section of Jingbao Railway, which was extended to Inner Mongolia's Hohhot in 1921 and Baotou in 1923.

A middle route, Fengsha Railway, was built in the 1950s between Fengtai and Shacheng, a county in Zhangjiakou. Zhan dropped this section in his construction plan because of high cost. Fengsha, however, is largely used to transport cargo; Jingzhang is still the main one used by travelers.



## Dining

### Six courses, five maestros, one night

The Hilton Beijing Wangfujing tempts with the culinary event of a lifetime. At the stroke of 5 o'clock the world's internationally acclaimed three-star Michelin-rated gourmet and celebrity chefs, hosted by the Hilton's own Executive Chef Yu Xiang Gu, will offer a night of dining with the stars.

Each will create one mouth-watering masterpiece as part of a six-course epicurean extravaganza to awaken the senses. A champagne reception will kick off the night with a grand start. It promises to be an evening of entertainment, accompanied by a selection of the finest wines, which no bon

vivant should miss.

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

When: June 8

Cost: 1,900 yuan (subject to 15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 5812 8888 ext. 8411



### Buy-One-Get-One-Free Pretzels

Auntie Anne's is a US-based franchisor that supports 1,000 Auntie Anne's Pretzels locations in 20 countries. It opened in mid-2008 in Beijing and has five stores in Beijing and Tianjin. It mixes, twists and bakes pretzels to golden brown perfection in full view of customers. Other key products include fresh-squeezed lemonade and pretzel dogs.

Show this promotion to get a Buy One Pretzel, Get One Free special at one of the stores in Beijing and Tianjin. Auntie Anne's will also launch a new series of flavored Lemonade Mixers in June.

When: before the end of July

Web site: auntieanneschina.com



### Flash your age

Beijing's Horizon Chinese Restaurant will offer birthday celebrants a dining discount equivalent to their age, and diners more than 100 years old will receive vouchers with an age-equivalent discount to be redeemed on subsequent visits.

Party celebrations of up to eight people can choose to customize their menu from the restaurant's a la carte list of authentic Cantonese and Imperial cuisines or select one of four menus ranging from 200 to 500 yuan per person. Celebrants may also take advantage of a similar discount offered at Bento & Berries for purchase of birthday cakes to add cheer to the occasion.

When: June 1 – December 31

Where: Beijing's Horizon Chinese Restaurant, Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6561 8833

## Hotel

### Kempinski, The Spa

Resense Spa SA, a new spa by Kempinski Hotels and Raison d'Etre, is developing a spa concept exclusively for Kempinski Hotels: Kempinski, The Spa. This collaboration brings together Kempinski's unbeatable hotel knowledge and Raison d'Etre's long-standing reputation for creating bespoke spas from concept through to development, recruitment, training, opening and management.

The main focus of Kempinski, The Spa will be on phytotherapy, the use of organic herbs as a main healing component. Natural extracts will be used as effective ingredients in treatments to heal and restore equilibrium.

### Ariva's hotel, serviced apartment brand launches

On June 3, Ariva Beijing West Hotel & Serviced Apartment celebrated its opening. Ariva Beijing West marks the launch of Ariva Hospitality's first hotel and serviced apartment in China. Ariva Hospitality was founded in October 2008 with headquarters in Singapore.

Ariva China Hospitality is a joint venture company opened in April. Ariva Hospitality will intro-

duce innovative brand concepts at its hotels, including Ariva Beijing West. Executives will be on hand for guided hotel tours and will make a presentation on the hotel's innovative brand concepts.

### Women are Magnifique



Spend a morning shopping for fabulous accessories, an afternoon enjoying luscious Lespa treatments, sip on a cocktail at the charming M bar and dine divinely on your favorite cuisine. Fall asleep in an elegant guest room with a French flair.

With Women are Magnifique, enjoy a once-per-stay 300 yuan gift certificate for each room to spend at LeSpa, stylish accommodations, delicious breakfast daily served in your room, a late check-out until 4 pm and an invitation for two complimentary cocktails at M Bar.

When: June – December

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: from 1,490 yuan (minimum three nights stay), subject to 15 percent surcharge

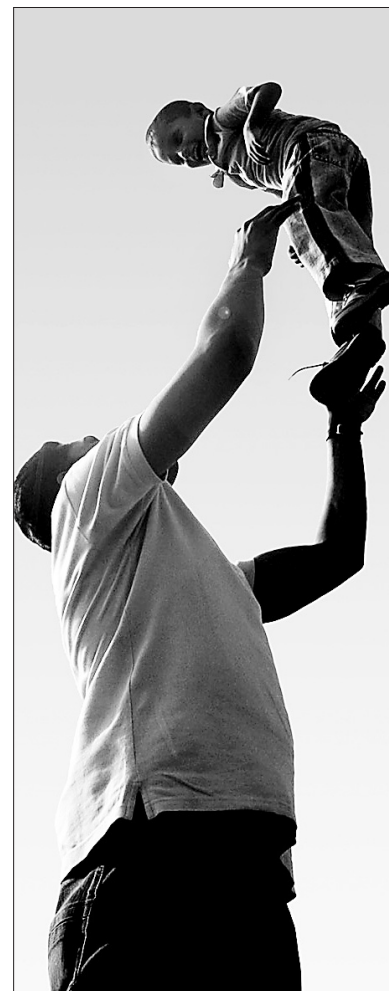
Tel: 8599 6666

### Dine by Design Service

Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa, Maldives will open in the summer. As part of the resort's bespoke Dine by Design Service, guests will be able to enjoy meals served at a variety of secret locations around the resort prepared by its culinary team. From a jungle-themed dinner amid the resort's lush vegetation to lunch on the equator aboard a luxury yacht, a selection of special dining options awaits you.

### New appointment to Jianguo Hotel

Ludovic Lafleur has been appointed as the new Restaurant Manager of Justine's at the Jianguo Hotel. He graduated with a bachelor's in hotel and catering management from the Institute Paul Bocuse in Lyon. With eight years in the international hospitality industry, Ludovic brings with him a wealth of experience and skills.



### Big Daddy

Don't forget dad! Make this day his at the award-winning Sunday bubbly brunch. Give him the day of his dreams with flame-grilled meat, fresh seafood, caviar chilled in ice pots, decadent desserts, signature "daddy cocktails" and a Father's Day gift.

Where: Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng District

When: June 21, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm,

Cost: 368 yuan including unlimited Pommery Pop champagne, wines, beers and cocktails; 298 yuan including unlimited soft drinks, juices and mocktails; 148 yuan for kids below 12 (subject to a 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 6629 7810/7815

## Aviation

### Check-in on the go with SIA Mobile

Customers traveling on any Singapore Airlines flight have the added convenience of checking in anywhere using their mobile phones with SIA Mobile. The service launched for Singapore-registered mobile phones on April 7. It is now available on mobile phones registered anywhere in the world.

### Air France KLM donates to earthquake affected areas

In commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the 5.12 Sichuan Earthquake, Air France and KLM are initiating the One-Month Charity Donation Drive to raise funds for rebuilding regions affected by the earthquake. For every ticket bought online on Air France or KLM Web sites on the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong or Taiwan before June 11, Air France KLM will donate 10 yuan to Red Cross Chengdu to aid rebuilding.

## Tourism

### TripAdvisor survey reveals highs, lows of European cities

Dublin has been named the friendliest city in Europe for the second year running, in a survey of travelers' perceptions of European cities by TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel community. The warm welcome that travelers receive in Dublin makes the city a great choice for holiday-makers seeking fantastic sights and friendly locals.

### Mauritius, oasis of calm and tranquility

Mauritius will enchant you and lift up your soul, making you feel that you belong to the chosen few. Every visitor enjoys personal attention. It is an oasis of peace and tranquility where past and present are smoothly blended.

With clear, warm water and endless white beaches. Mauritius makes this tropical dream come true. The local cuisine originates from three continents, just like the locals. Visitors have the opportunity to taste a variety of foods — Indian, Chinese, Creole and European — at one table.

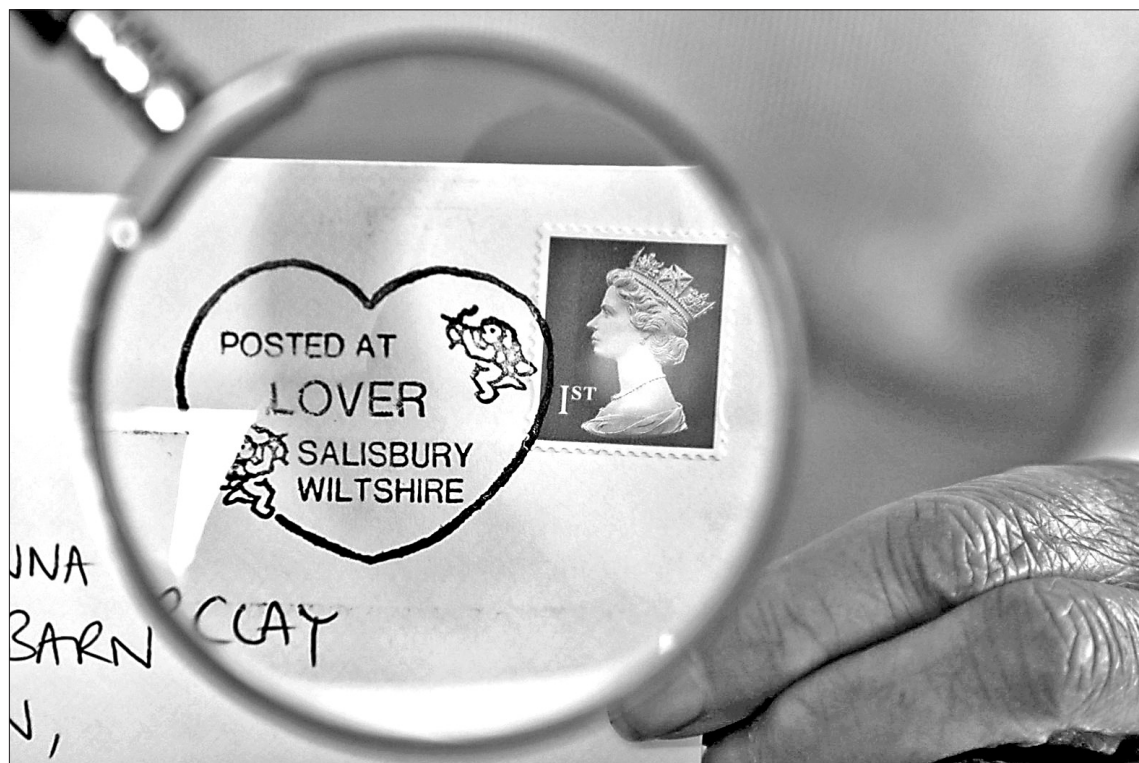
(By Sun Feng)



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Stop pulling my leg!



CFP Photo

By He Jianwei

Albert Zhang attended a meeting of his university alumni association last weekend. It was five years since his graduation. He bumped into his roommate Steven Wu, whom he had not seen in ages, and who came with his fiancée.

Wu introduced his fiancée Sandy Wang to Zhang; Zhang couldn't shake off the feeling he already knew the woman. "Your face is vaguely familiar. Were you a freshman in the department of law when you met Wu?"

Wang nodded.

"Don't forget to invite me to your wedding. Remember who your matchmaker was," Zhang said with a grin, patting Wu on the shoulder.

"Sure, I still remember that laughable miscommunication between us," Wu said, his eyes crinkling at the cor-

ners at the memory of that particular day in college.

Wu was shy. In his junior year, he liked a freshman law student, but didn't know how to approach the woman. As Wu's roommate and close friend, Zhang could feel Wu's pain and wanted to help him out.

One day, Zhang told Wu he found out that the law student also liked Wu and would like to go out with him.

"Stop pulling my leg, will you! I don't believe she really said she likes me and would like me to take her out," Wu said.

"Hey, I'm trying to help you out and give you moral support," Zhang said, a bit hurt. "I'm not trying to hold you back."

"Calm down, please. I just thought you were kidding me. I didn't say anything about you holding me back," Wu said.

"Really? But I heard you said I was pulling your leg," Zhang frowned.

"Oh boy, I see. 'To pull somebody's leg' is 'tuo hou tui' or 'to hold somebody back.' But in English, it's an idiom that means 'to kid somebody or make a joke,'" Wu said.

"Sorry, I misunderstood the expression. I admit that I really made a joke. I just wanted to tell you that if you like the girl, then go ask her for a date. Don't be afraid!" Zhang said.

"But I don't know what to say."

"If it's hard for you to speak out, write down what you want to say."

So Wu wrote the woman a letter and Zhang helped him give it to her.

Six years later, Wu and that woman – Sandy Wang – are about to marry. After the roommates reminisced about that episode, they smiled at each other knowingly, thinking about the thorny road to finding love.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

## Strange juice and strange fruit names

By Tiffany Tan

How often do you encounter a fruit with two names in the same language? Well, that is exactly what we have here.

"Qiyiguo" is another term for "mihoutao," known in English as "kiwi," a fruit with fuzzy brown skin and slightly acidic, typically green flesh. According to a colleague, *mihoutao* is the term used by Chinese people to refer to domestically grown kiwi, while *qiyiguo* is for those that come from New Zealand.

*Qiyi* means "odd, bizarre, strange," so what's with the hurtful label? I'm still in the middle of

my 100-page paper on The History of the Kiwifruit's Name, but some online sources say the fruit used to be known internationally by its Chinese names *mihoutao* and "yangtao," until it was changed to "Chinese gooseberry."

In 1959, during a meeting of New Zealand exporters, somebody suggested it be renamed "kiwifruit," and the name stuck. Is the name "strange fruit" a sign that some people weren't happy with the name change? And was the menu entry – instead of saying "kiwi juice" – an act of solidarity with the protest movement?

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## Local professor: Zhu Shida

### 1. Staying up for this movie may not be worth it.

Grammatically, this is all right. The issue here involves the usage of "worth" and "worthwhile." As an adjective, "worth" means "good or important enough for; deserving." For instance, The book is worth reading; Beijing is an ancient city worth visiting. "Worthwhile," also an adjective, means "worth time, attention or effort." In this sentence, "it" stands for "staying up for the movie," which is "the effort." For better linguistic finesse, "Staying up for this movie may not be worthwhile" should be changed into "Staying up for the movie may not be worthwhile."

### 2. In a Beijing suburban

"Suburban" is an adjective; it is not a noun. For instance, US author John Cheever, who focused on writing about suburban life in New England, is described as a "suburban writer." So you should say, "in a suburban Beijing district" or "in a Beijing suburb." You may also replace suburban with "suburbia," "outlying parts" or "outskirts." The noun for suburban is "suburbanite," a person who lives in a suburb.

### 3. They shirk their responsibility to friends, instead taking full charge.

In this sentence, the phrases "they shirk their responsibility" and "taking full charge" are juxtaposed. The latter is not a modifier of the former, so it should not be made into the participle phrase "taking full charge." When there are two actions that are contrary to one other, you may use "in stead of," which means "rather than; in place of; as a substitute for." The original sentence should then be rewritten as, "Instead of taking full charge, they shirk their responsibility to friends." "Instead" may also be used as an adverb, meaning "in another's place; as a substitute." For instance, She stayed home, and her sister went riding instead.

## Native speaker: Penny Turner

### 1. Staying up for this movie may not be worth it.

I think the sentence above is fine; it may also be written as, "It may not be worth it staying up for this movie." But in addition to Professor Zhu's suggestions, the idiom "worth (someone's) while," which means "worth someone's time and trouble; of benefit to someone," may also be used in the sentence. The original sentence would then become, "Staying up for this movie may not be worth my/our while."

### 2. In a Beijing suburban

The writer chose the wrong word form with "suburban"; the Professor gives a clear and thorough explanation and good word substitutes. But on the topic of "suburban" as a noun, it is interesting to note that one of the US' oldest motor vehicle models still in production is General Motors' Chevrolet Suburban, first produced before World War II.

### 3. They shirk their responsibility to friends, instead taking full charge.

Like the Professor explained, the sentence needs to use "instead of," not "instead." In the final sentence, I would remove "to friends," as the line sounds a bit awkward. It would then be, "Instead of taking full charge, they shirk their responsibilities." If you want to include who had to take over the responsibility, you can say, "Instead of taking full charge, they passed on/relinquished their responsibility to friends."



# Marley & Me

## (2008)

### Movie of the week

Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston go to the dogs with *Marley & Me*, a tale of a couple embarking on the adventure of marriage, career, family and the world's worst dog. At least that's how writer and newlywed John comes to describe his yellow lab, Marley, when he finds that the fluff ball has an uncanny ability to eat and destroy just about anything.

As years go by, John and his wife Jennifer contemplate starting a family and moving across the country, while Marley grows to be 100 pounds of funny, wild, completely untrainable canine companionship – as well as one of the most important people in the family.

*Marley & Me* is based on the best-selling autobiographical book by columnist John Grogan.

### Synopsis

After their wedding, newspaper writers John and Jennifer Grogan move to Florida. In an attempt to stall Jennifer's "biological clock," John gives her a puppy. While the puppy Marley grows to be one big dog, he loses none of his energy or rambunctiousness. Marley's antics give John rich material for his newspaper column. As the Grogans mature and have children of their own, Marley continues to test everyone's patience by acting like the world's most impulsive dog.



### Scene 1

**Jennifer:** Sit. Sit. Sit. Marley.

**Coach:** This, class, is a classic example of a dog who has foolishly been allowed to believe he is the **alpha male**(1) of the pack ... and therefore, he can never be a happy animal.

**John:** Yeah. He looks pretty miserable.

**Coach:** You, joker, **rotate in**(2). And lose the sunglasses. Dogs like to be looked in the eye.

**John:** I got it.

**Jennifer:** OK.

**Coach:** OK. You got him?

**John:** Yeah.

**Coach:** OK. So, collar your dogs.

**John:** Good boy.

**Coach:** All right, dogs on the left, on the count of three. One, two, three. Let's go. Very nice. Very good. Good. Hey!

Correct him! **Rein in**(3) that dog. All right. All right, class. Come on. Let's **line up**(4) again. Class, it's a simple question of having confidence in your own authority. I shall now demonstrate a simple walk. All right? Mr. Grogan?

**John:** Sorry.

**Coach:** May I? All right, even an unruly dog likes to obey his leader. Marley, heel. Yeah. Marley Marley Marley!

**John:** Careful. Marley, no! Marley!

**Coach:** Aaah! That's it. He is out. Sorry. Usually he does this with poodles. That dog is a bad influence on the others. Now, leg humping is like a virus. Once it **takes hold off**(5) the group. No.

**John:** Okay.

**Coach:** He has got to go.



### Scene 2

**Child:** Are we here yet?

**John:** No.

**Child:** Now?

**John:** We got a couple hours to go.

**Child:** Now?

**John:** **Soak it up**(6).

**Child:** Now? Are we here yet?

**John:** Must be near it.

**Child:** Are we getting hot or cold? Why are we turning into here?

**Jennifer:** We're living here.

**John:** I want a moment of silence just to **take this in**(7). Okay? Before the **pandemonium**(8). Look at this. Here we go.

**Jennifer:** Come on. We're here.

**John:** Marley! Marley, no! Marley! Marley! Marley! Oh, nice. And we're home.

**Andy:** Hey, Andy Rooney, if

you're **knocking off**(9) soon, I'll walk with you to the train.

**John:** Okay, I'm ready. Put an exclamation point here. Mark Twain said not to use exclamation points 'cause it's like laughing at your own joke ... but sometimes you gotta laugh at your own joke 'cause it's funny.

**Child:** It's here! It's here! It's here! It's here! Come on. Come on! Come on. Look it!

**John:** Remember, angels can fly, so you gotta get the wings up high. Yeah. Now that one's coming.

**Jennifer:** Lunch is ready!

**John:** Okay! Heading in. Let's go. Take that! Marley! Come on, guys. Marley, come on. Marley.

**Jennifer:** You know what, honey? Let him be. He's happy.

**John:** Thank you ... What are

you doing in here? You're going for the **bunk bed**(10) tonight? Pretty good day. I mean, the snow. Come on. All right. **Sleep tight**(11) ... Too much color?

**Boss:** Yeah. I mean, don't get me wrong. It's a good piece, but you're reporting now, John. I want you to tell the story. I don't want you to be in the story.

**John:** I'm pretty sure I don't mention myself in there

**Boss:** The point is ... I still feel you in there. And all I'm saying is less you and more facts.

**John:** Got it.

**Boss:** Door's always open.

**John:** Thanks.

**Child:** Hut!

**John:** Uh-oh. Here comes the old pro. He shows up for the fourth quarter. Yeah. Oh, yes! He catches it. He **fends off**(12) one guy. He's running through. He's shaking tackles left and right.

### Vocabulary

1. **alpha male:** a man who is dominant, confident and self-assured.
2. **rotate in:** to cause to alternate or proceed in sequence
3. **rein in:** to stop (a horse) by pulling on the reins
4. **line up:** to arrange in or form a line
5. **takes hold off:** to gain control of or spread; often used reflexively
6. **soak it up:** devote (oneself) fully to,

to understand

7. **take in:** enjoy and experience

8. **pandemonium:** noise and chaos

9. **knock off:** to complete, accomplish or dispose of hastily or easily

10. **bunk bed:** a pair of beds constructed one above the other to save space

11. **sleep tight:** have a nice sleep

12. **fend off:** to prevent the occurrence of

(By Han Manman)

